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4

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

GRAPHIC NOVEL

LL-LENGTH COMIC STORIES!

BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK

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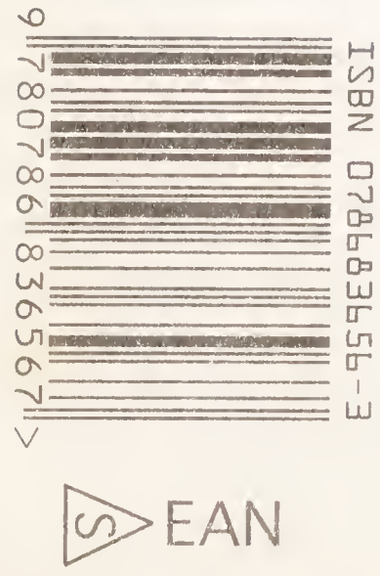
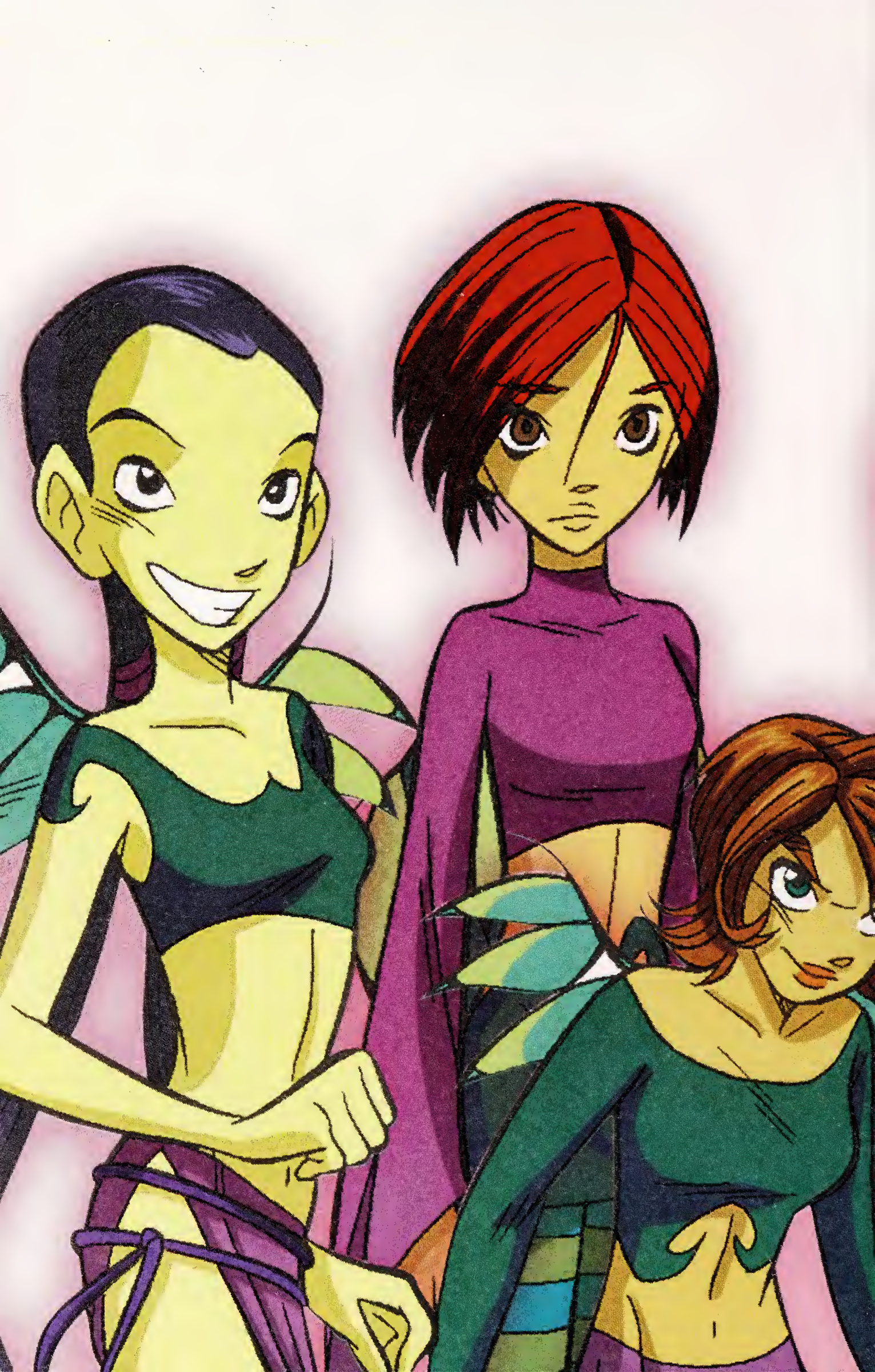


GRAPHIC NOVEL #4

BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK



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Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

GRAPHIC NOVEL #4

BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK

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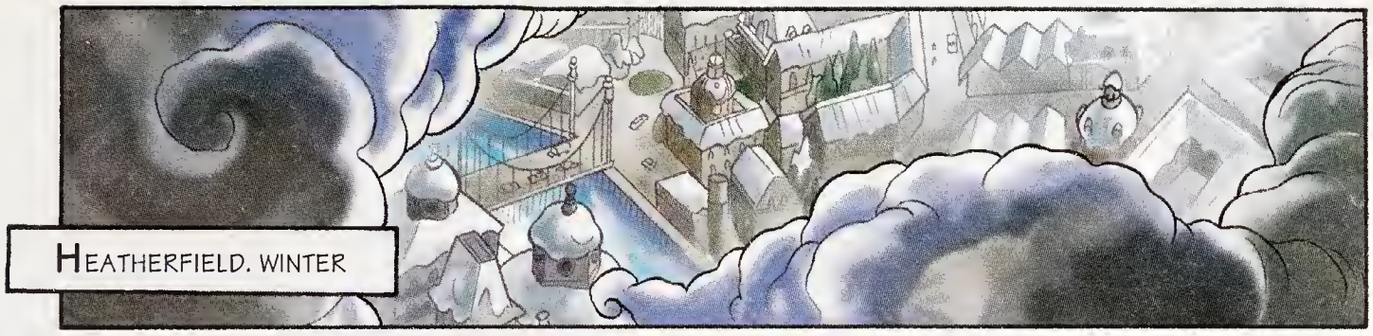
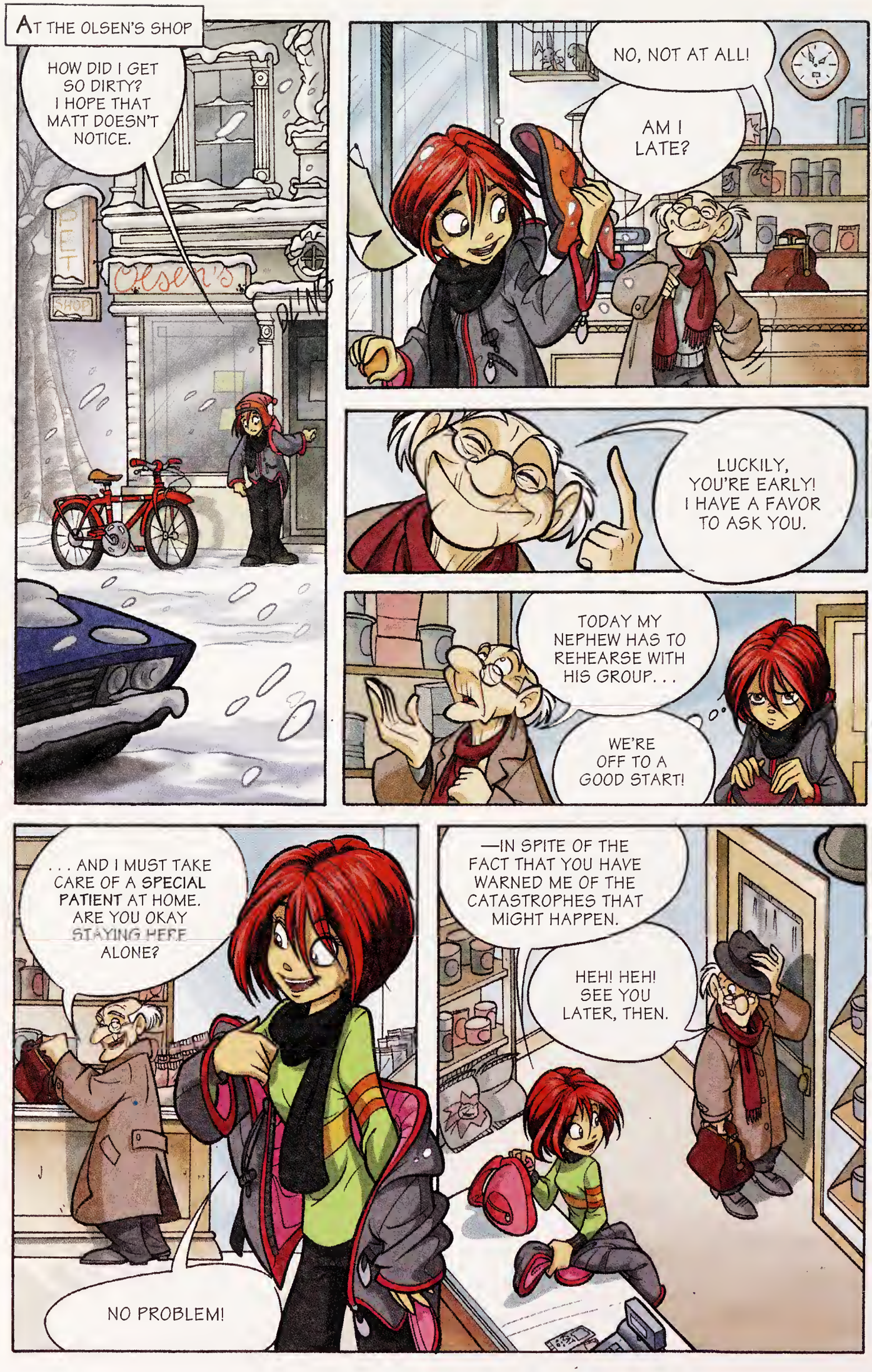

HEATHERFIELD. WINTER

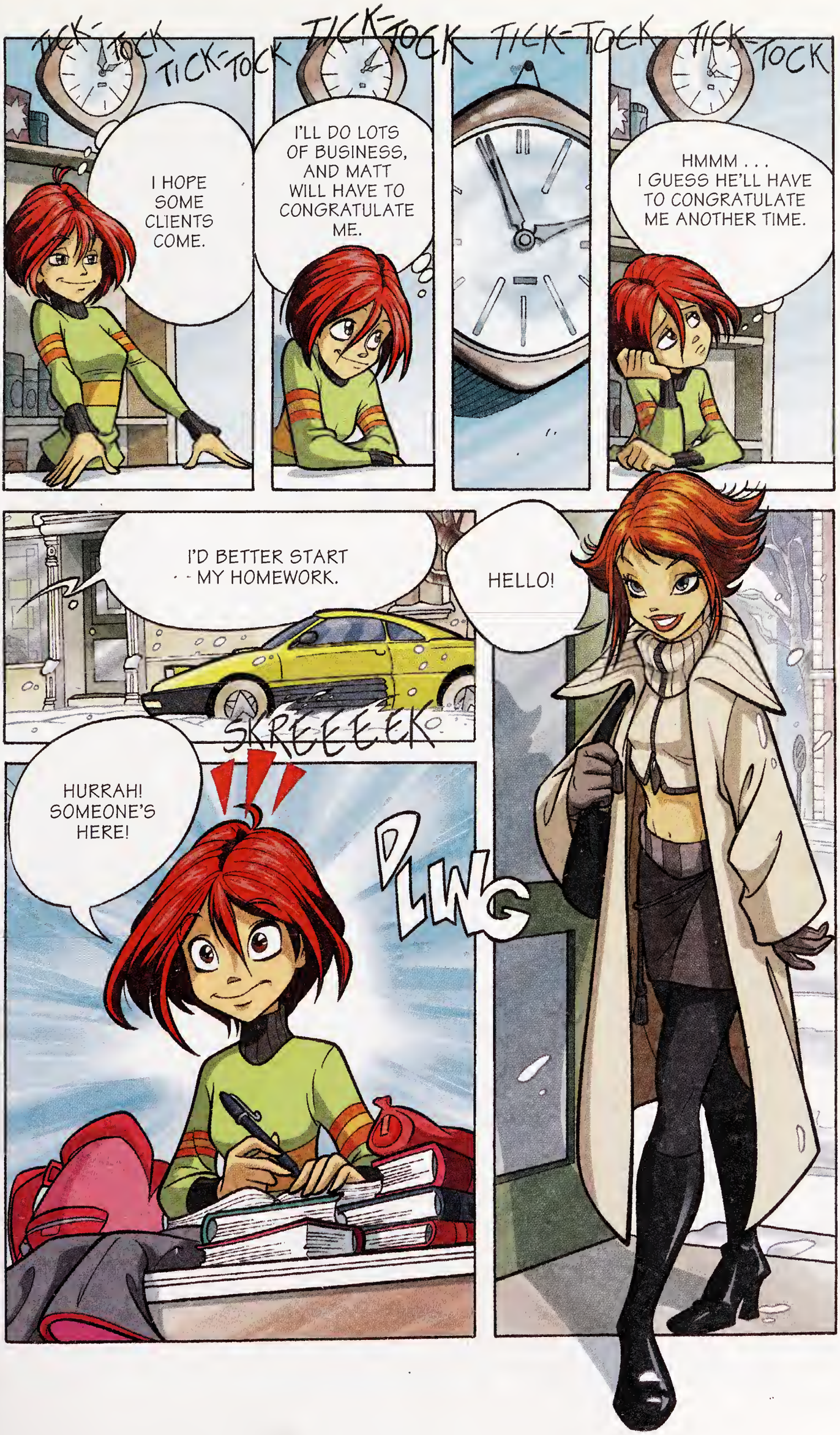
THE SNOW SURROUNDS THE TOWN WITH SILENCE.

OR, RATHER . . .
RIII IIING
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
HEY, WILL!

HI!
WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING?
GOTTA GO . . . MATT'S GRANDFATHER IS WAITING FOR ME!

YEAH, RIGHT! MATT'S GRANDFATHER!
LET'S PRETEND TO BELIEVE IT!


AT THE OLSEN'S SHOP
HOW DID I GET SO DIRTY? I HOPE THAT MATT DOESN'T NOTICE.
PET
SHOP
Olsen's
NO, NOT AT ALL!
AM I LATE?
LUCKILY, YOU'RE EARLY! I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
TODAY MY NEPHEW HAS TO REHEARSE WITH HIS GROUP. . .
WE'RE OFF TO A GOOD START!
. . . AND I MUST TAKE CARE OF A SPECIAL PATIENT AT HOME. ARE YOU OKAY STAYING HERE ALONE?
NO PROBLEM!
—IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE WARNED ME OF THE CATASTROPHES THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
HEH! HEH! SEE YOU LATER, THEN.

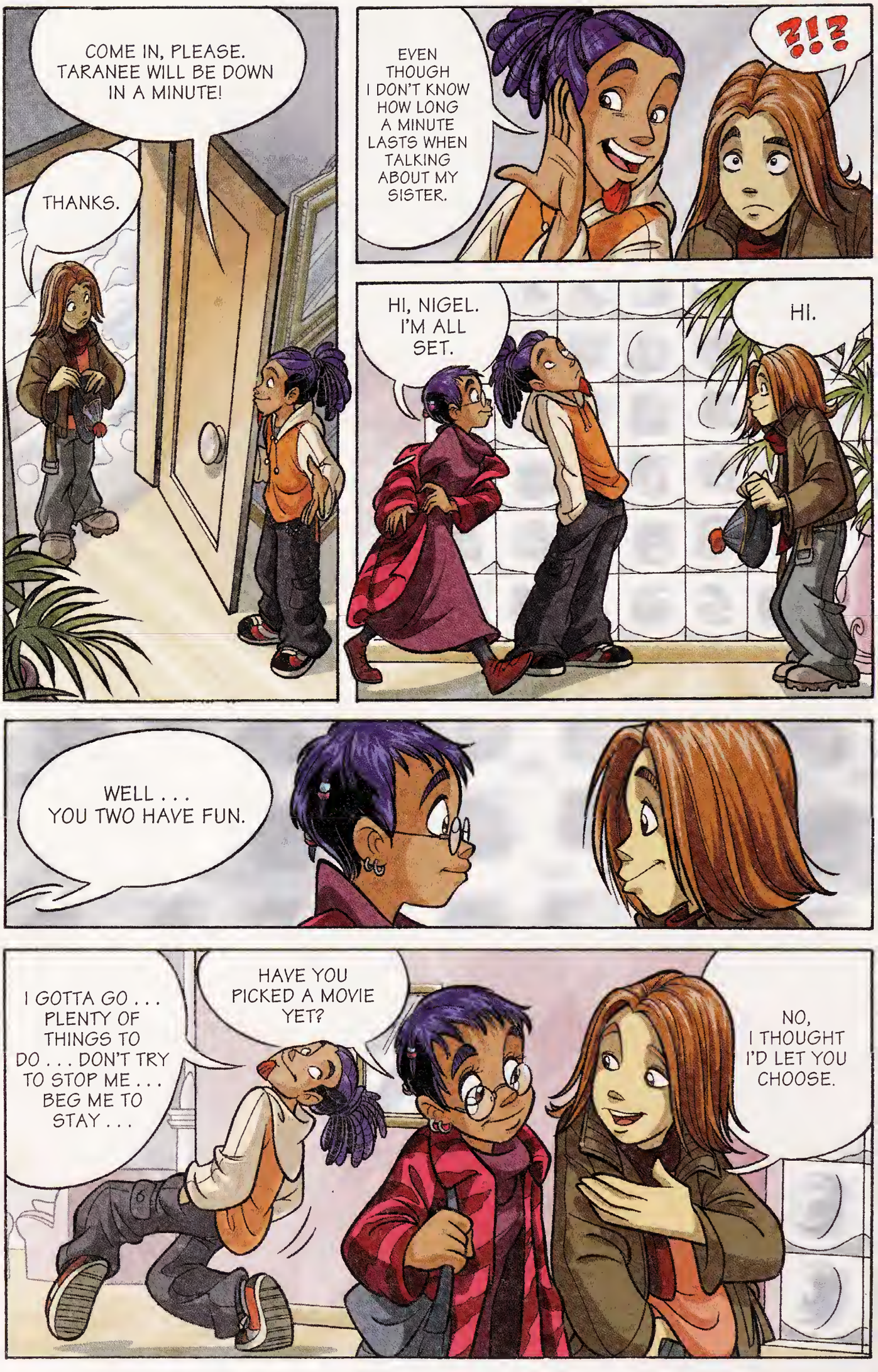

TICK-TOCK
TICK-TOCK
I HOPE SOME CLIENTS COME.
TICK-TOCK
TICK-TOCK
I'LL DO LOTS OF BUSINESS, AND MATT WILL HAVE TO CONGRATULATE ME.
TICK-TOCK
TICK-TOCK
HMMM . . . I GUESS HE'LL HAVE TO CONGRATULATE ME ANOTHER TIME.
I'D BETTER START . . . MY HOMEWORK.
SKREEEEK
HELLO!
HURRAH! SOMEONE'S HERE!
DING

HELLO! MAY I HELP YOU?
NO, THANKS! I'M LOOKING FOR MATT.
WELL . . . TODAY HE ISN'T HERE. HOWEVER, I'M HERE . . . IF YOU NEED . . .
WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A PIECE OF PAPER?
SURE, HERE YOU GO . . .
STRAP
THAT'S GREAT!
I'LL JUST WRITE HIM A QUICK NOTE.
THERE! PLEASE GIVE IT TO MATT. I TRUST THAT YOU CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT.

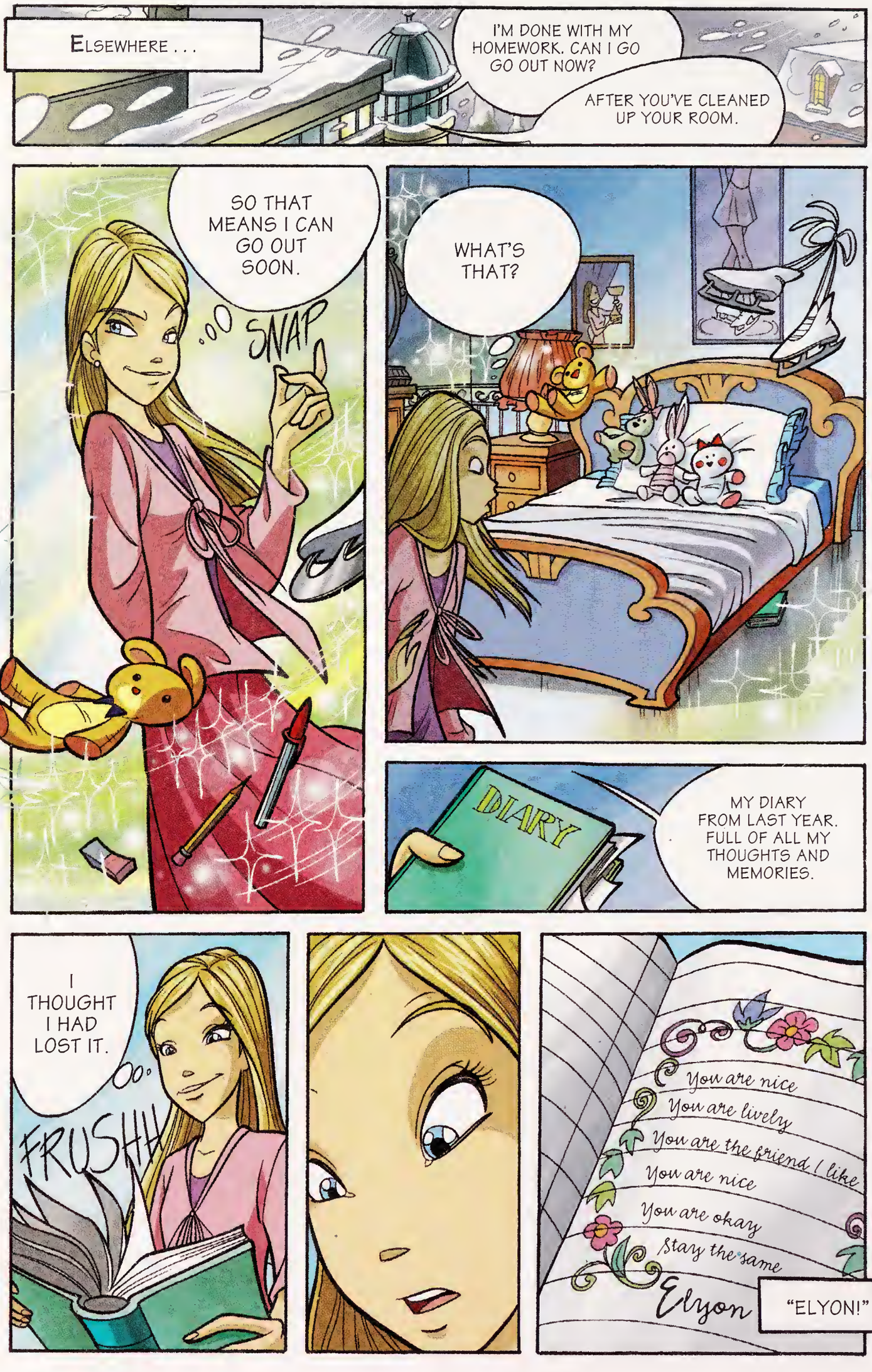
!!!
YOU HAVE BEEN VERY KIND! GOOD-BYE.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
I look forward to embracing my puppy. Kisses XXX Jackie
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE!!!
PLEASE GIVE IT TO MATT. I TRUST THAT YOU CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?

GRRR . . . HOW I HATE HER!
DLING
AHEM . . . NOTHING!
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, WILL?
NO MAJOR CATASTROPHES!
HOWEVER, I HAVE A LOT OF HOMEWORK. IF YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE . . .
GO, THEN! WE'LL SEE YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
I HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST HER. SHE IS TOO OLD, TOO BEAUTIFUL, TOO EVERYTHING.
"PUPPY"
"KISSES"
MATT WILL NOT SEE THAT PIECE OF PAPER!

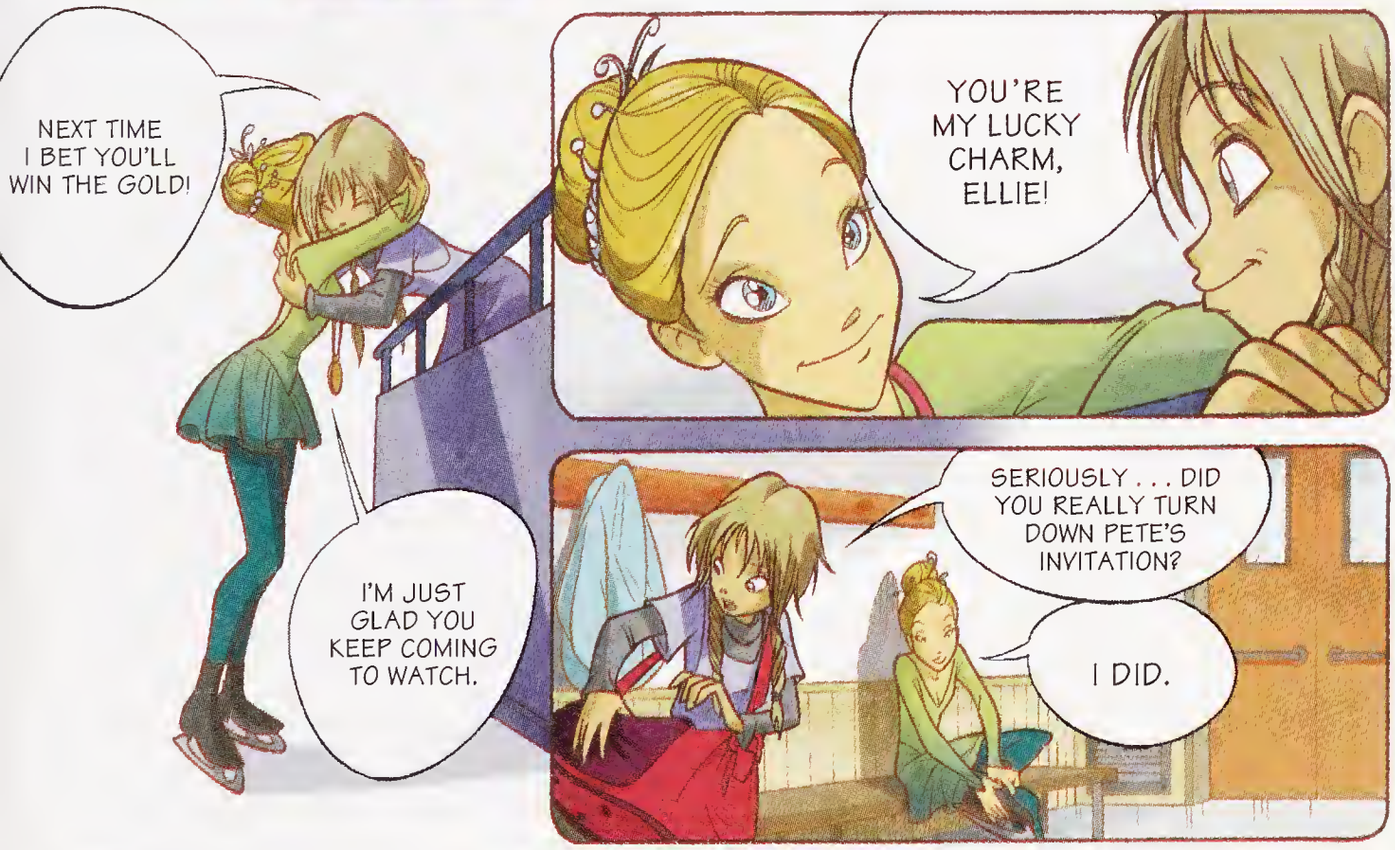
UNDER THE SAME SNOW . . .
YOU HAVE TO TELL US!
WE DON'T KEEP SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER.
I KNOW! I PROMISE—I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING . . . TOMORROW!
HEY! LET ME HEAR, TOO!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CRUEL?
WHILE YOU ARE OFF WITH YOUR MYSTERY BOY, WE'LL BE STUCK WITH PROFESSOR VARGAS!
I'M S-O-O-O-O SORRY FOR YOU. REALLY, I AM.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT! TELL US WHO HE IS!
RING
SOMEONE IS AT THE DOOR.
SORRY, I HAVE TO GO!
OPEN IT! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!
HMPFF. . .
THE SHOES! THE SHOES! THE SHOES!

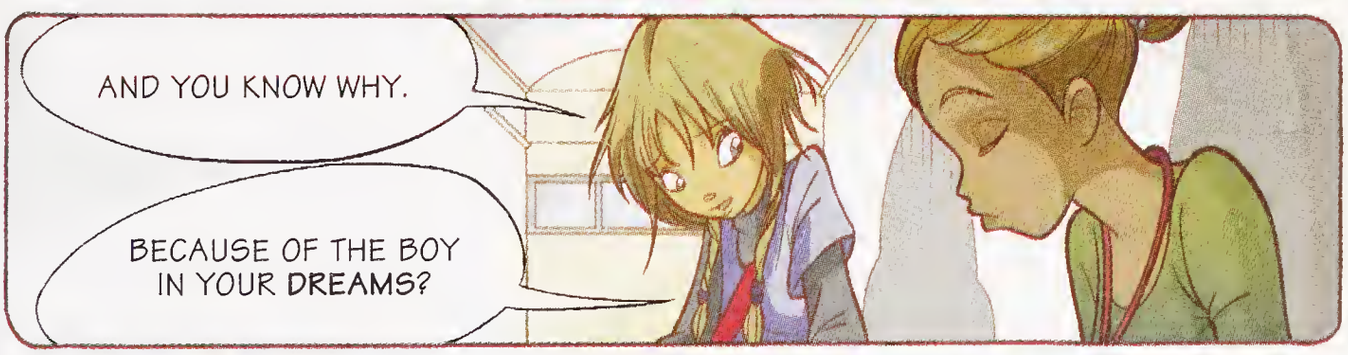

COME IN, PLEASE. TARANEE WILL BE DOWN IN A MINUTE!
THANKS.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG A MINUTE LASTS WHEN TALKING ABOUT MY SISTER.
?!?
HI, NIGEL. I'M ALL SET.
HI.
WELL . . . YOU TWO HAVE FUN.
I GOTTA GO . . . PLENTY OF THINGS TO DO . . . DON'T TRY TO STOP ME . . . BEG ME TO STAY . . .
HAVE YOU PICKED A MOVIE YET?
NO, I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU CHOOSE.

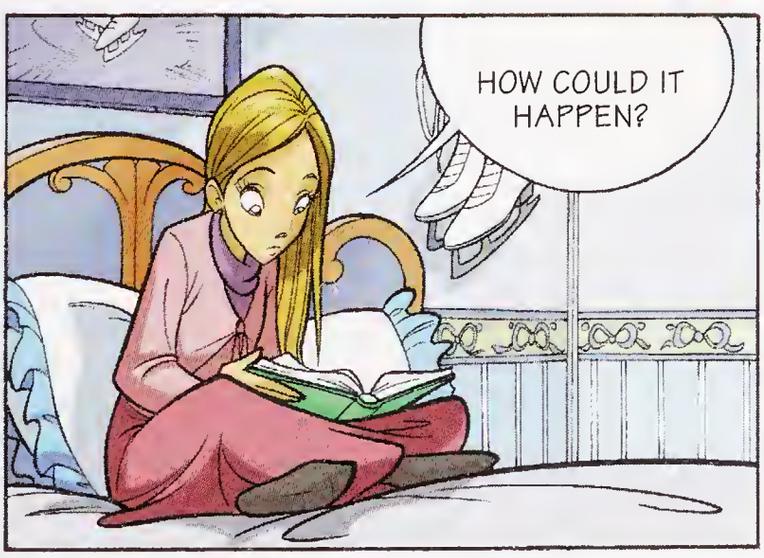
WAIT!
HMMM . . .
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HER GOING OUT WITH THAT BOY.
DON'T WORRY, MOM! HE'S A GOOD GUY.
STILL . . . MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOUR SISTER GO OUT WITH HIM.
AFTER ALL . . . LOOK WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MUSEUM.
BY NOW, NIGEL IS OUT OF THE GANG. SO DON'T WORRY.
GOTCHA! THAT'S A POINT FOR ME!
HA-HA!
"I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT."
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET, RIGHT?
ONLY IF YOU MANAGE TO CATCH ME!

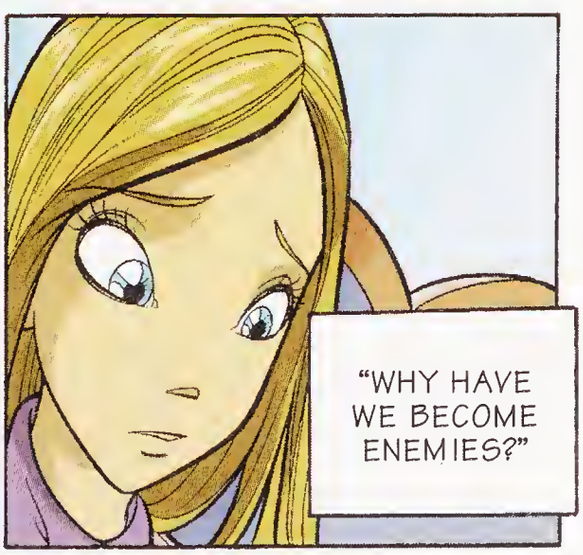

ELSEWHERE . . .
I'M DONE WITH MY HOMEWORK. CAN I GO GO OUT NOW?
AFTER YOU'VE CLEANED UP YOUR ROOM.
SO THAT MEANS I CAN GO OUT SOON.
SNAP
WHAT'S THAT?
DIARY
MY DIARY FROM LAST YEAR. FULL OF ALL MY THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES.
I THOUGHT I HAD LOST IT.
FRUSH!
You are nice
You are lively
You are the friend I like
You are nice
You are okay
Stay the same
Elyon
"ELYON!"

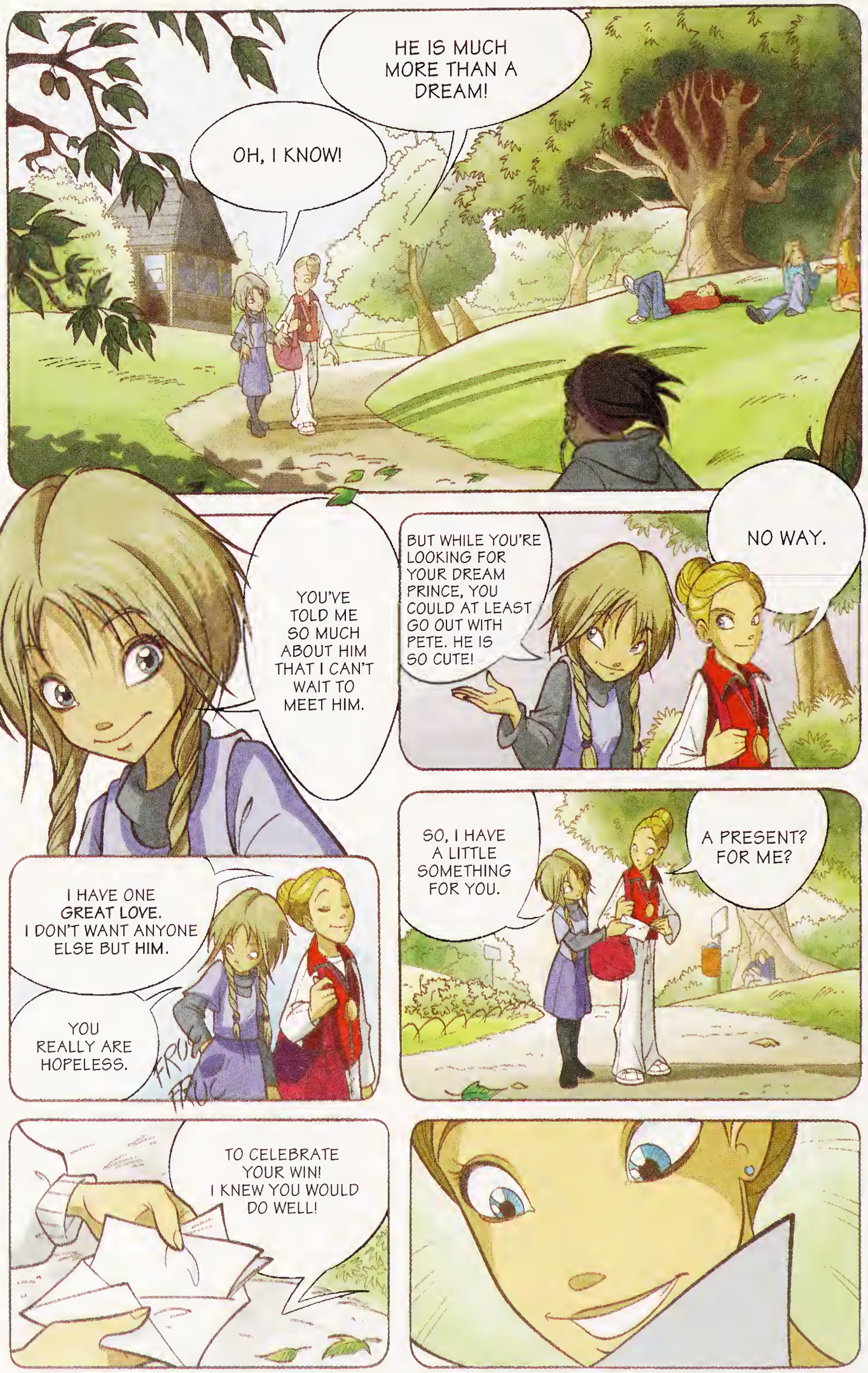
"THINGS WERE SO DIFFERENT THEN."
CLAP CLAP
THIRD PLACE! YOU WERE GREAT!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

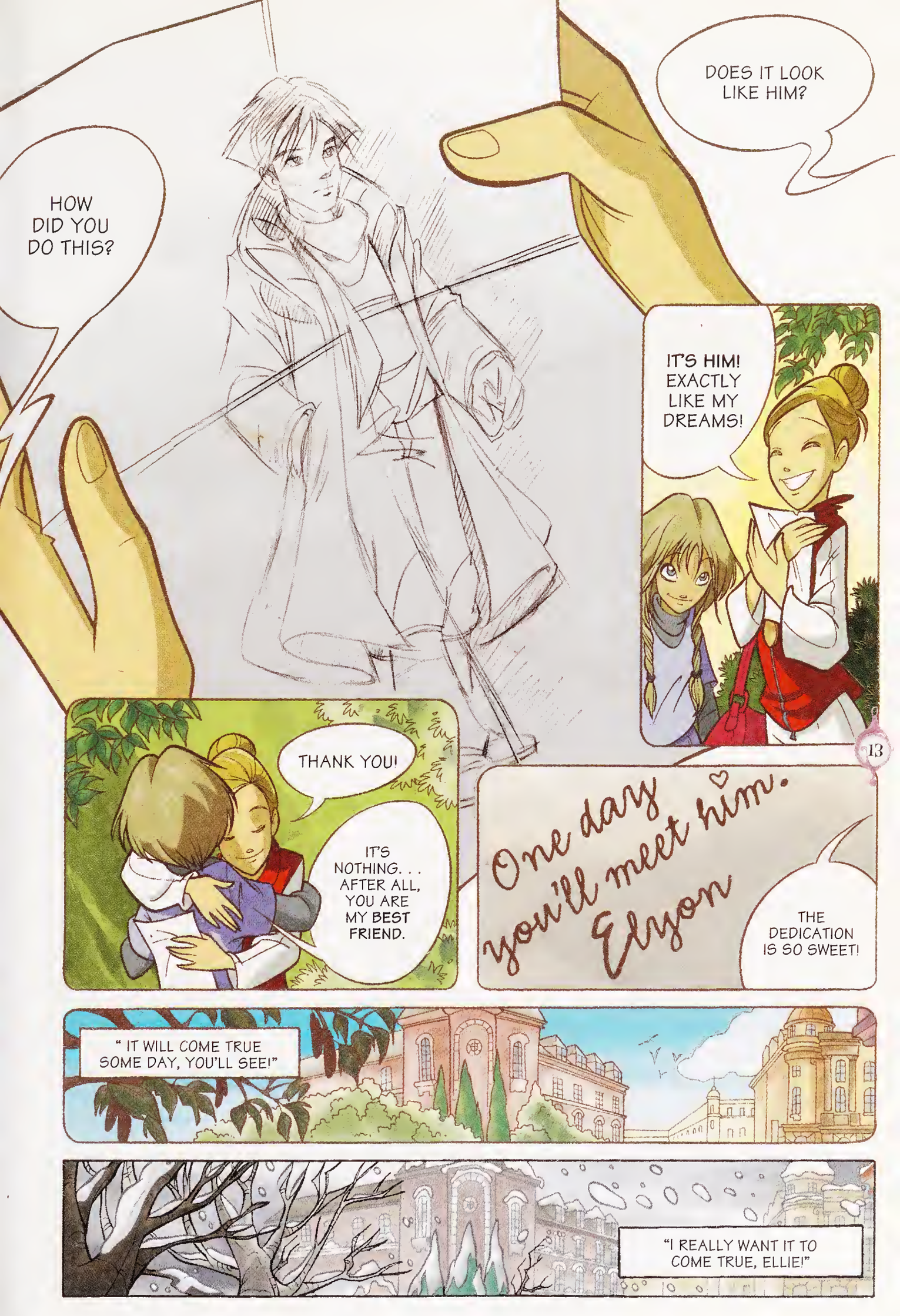

NEXT TIME I BET YOU'LL WIN THE GOLD!
I'M JUST GLAD YOU KEEP COMING TO WATCH.
YOU'RE MY LUCKY CHARM, ELLIE!
SERIOUSLY . . . DID YOU REALLY TURN DOWN PETE'S INVITATION?
I DID.

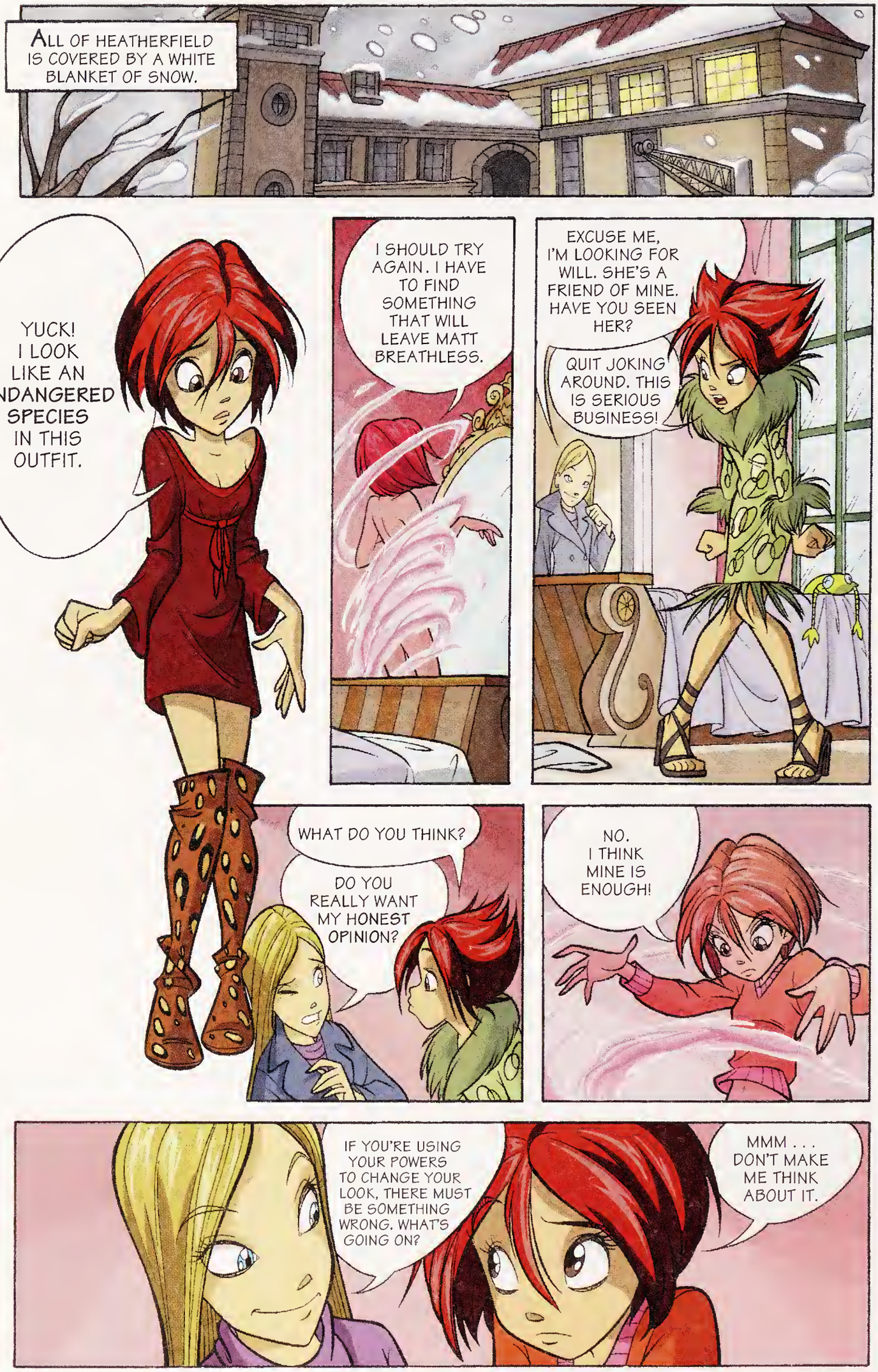

AND YOU KNOW WHY.
BECAUSE OF THE BOY IN YOUR DREAMS?

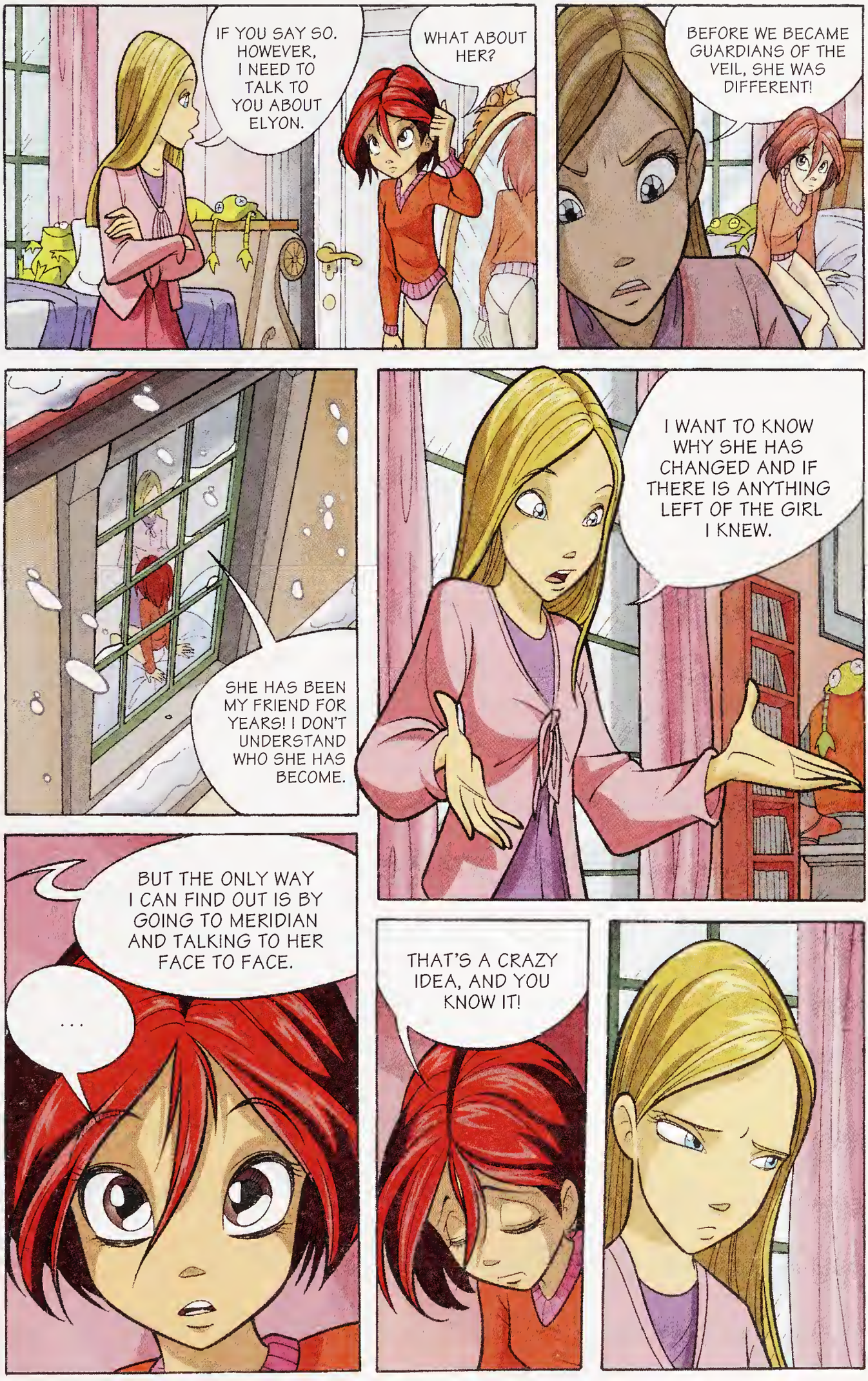

HOW COULD IT HAPPEN?


"WHY HAVE WE BECOME ENEMIES?"


HE IS MUCH MORE THAN A DREAM!
OH, I KNOW!
YOU'VE TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT HIM THAT I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM.
BUT WHILE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR DREAM PRINCE, YOU COULD AT LEAST GO OUT WITH PETE. HE IS SO CUTE!
NO WAY.
I HAVE ONE GREAT LOVE. I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE BUT HIM.
YOU REALLY ARE HOPELESS.
SO, I HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
A PRESENT? FOR ME?
TO CELEBRATE YOUR WIN! I KNEW YOU WOULD DO WELL!


DOES IT LOOK LIKE HIM?
HOW DID YOU DO THIS?
IT'S HIM! EXACTLY LIKE MY DREAMS!
THANK YOU!
IT'S NOTHING. . . AFTER ALL, YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND.
One day you'll meet him. Elyon
THE DEDICATION IS SO SWEET!
" IT WILL COME TRUE SOME DAY, YOU'LL SEE!"
"I REALLY WANT IT TO COME TRUE, ELLIE!"


ALL OF HEATHERFIELD IS COVERED BY A WHITE BLANKET OF SNOW.
YUCK! I LOOK LIKE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THIS OUTFIT.
I SHOULD TRY AGAIN. I HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL LEAVE MATT BREATHLESS.
EXCUSE ME, I'M LOOKING FOR WILL. SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
QUIT JOKING AROUND. THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DO YOU REALLY WANT MY HONEST OPINION?
NO. I THINK MINE IS ENOUGH!
IF YOU'RE USING YOUR POWERS TO CHANGE YOUR LOOK, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG. WHAT'S GOING ON?
MMM . . . DON'T MAKE ME THINK ABOUT IT.

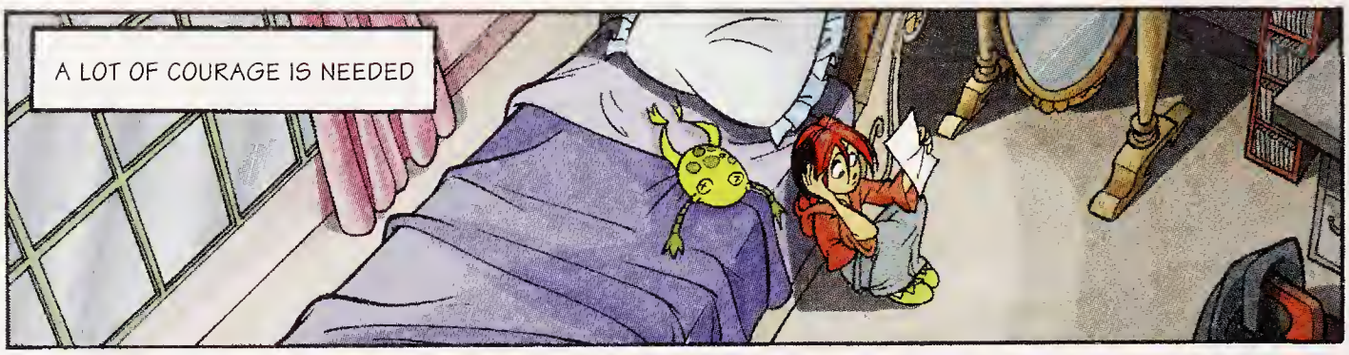

IF YOU SAY SO. HOWEVER, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT ELYON.
WHAT ABOUT HER?
BEFORE WE BECAME GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL, SHE WAS DIFFERENT!
SHE HAS BEEN MY FRIEND FOR YEARS! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO SHE HAS BECOME.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY SHE HAS CHANGED AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING LEFT OF THE GIRL I KNEW.
BUT THE ONLY WAY I CAN FIND OUT IS BY GOING TO MERIDIAN AND TALKING TO HER FACE TO FACE.
...
THAT'S A CRAZY IDEA, AND YOU KNOW IT!

"WILL HAS ONLY SEEN ELYON'S WORST SIDE. SHE CAN'T UNDERSTAND."
"IRMA AND HAY LIN KNEW HER. THEY'LL KNOW WHY I HAVE TO DO THIS."
GREAT IDEA, CORNY! IF YOU WANT TO UNLEASH CEDRIC AND ALL HIS MUSCLE MEN AGAINST YOU, THAT IS THE PERFECT PLAN.
IRMA'S RIGHT. IT SOUNDS DANGEROUS.
OH, NEVER MIND!
I UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T AGREE.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO END UP IN THE MERIDIAN PRISON. WOULD YOU?
CORNELIA! STOP! WAIT!
HAY LIN!
PLEASE EXAMINE THOSE STALACTITES! AND WATCH THE SOLIDIFICATION PROCESS OF THE WATER AND BE SURE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF IT.
URGH! YES, MA'AM.
SHE CAN'T GET TO MERIDIAN WITH THE HEART OF CANDRACAR, CAN SHE?
I DON'T THINK SO!
SKREEEE

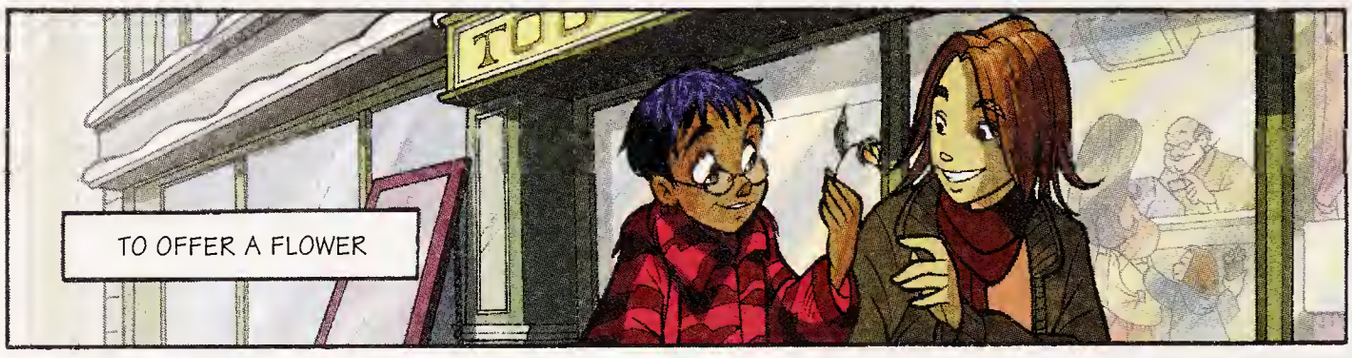
"I GUESS I HAVE TO DO THIS ON MY OWN."
OLDE BOOK SHOP
WHO'S THERE?
WHOEVER YOU ARE, COME OUT!
COME ON! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
?
YOU?!

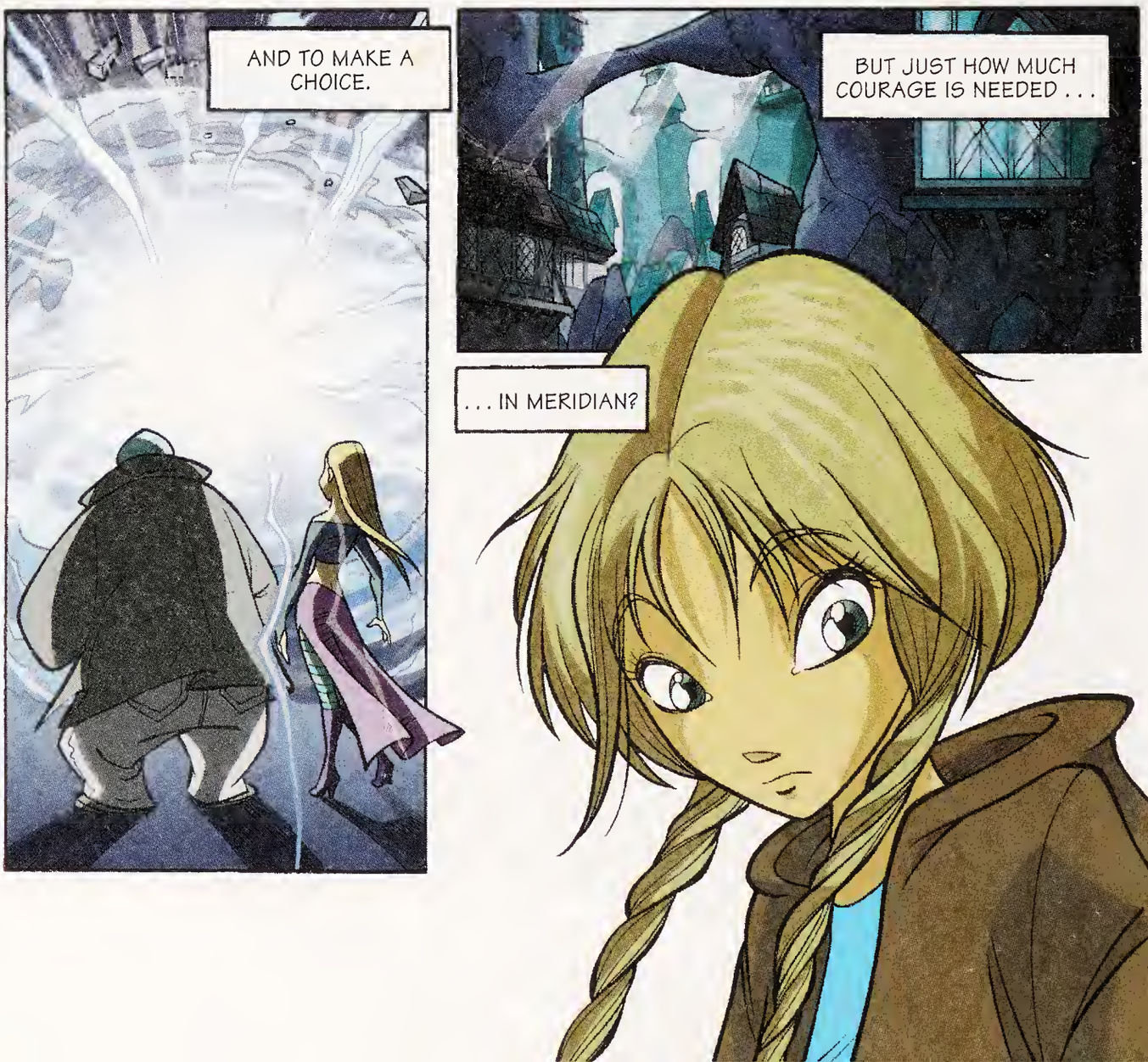
I DIDN'T THINK I'D FIND YOU HERE!
VATHEK!
GET READY TO FIGHT THE POWERS OF EARTH!
I WON'T FIGHT YOU!
NO? WHY NOT?
I'VE SEEN WHAT CEDRIC HAS DONE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST HIM?
I'VE ONLY OPENED MY EYES.
MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FOR TOO LONG BECAUSE OF PHOBOS. NOW I WILL HELP THOSE WHO FIGHT TO BRING JOY AND PEACE TO MERIDIAN ONCE AGAIN!

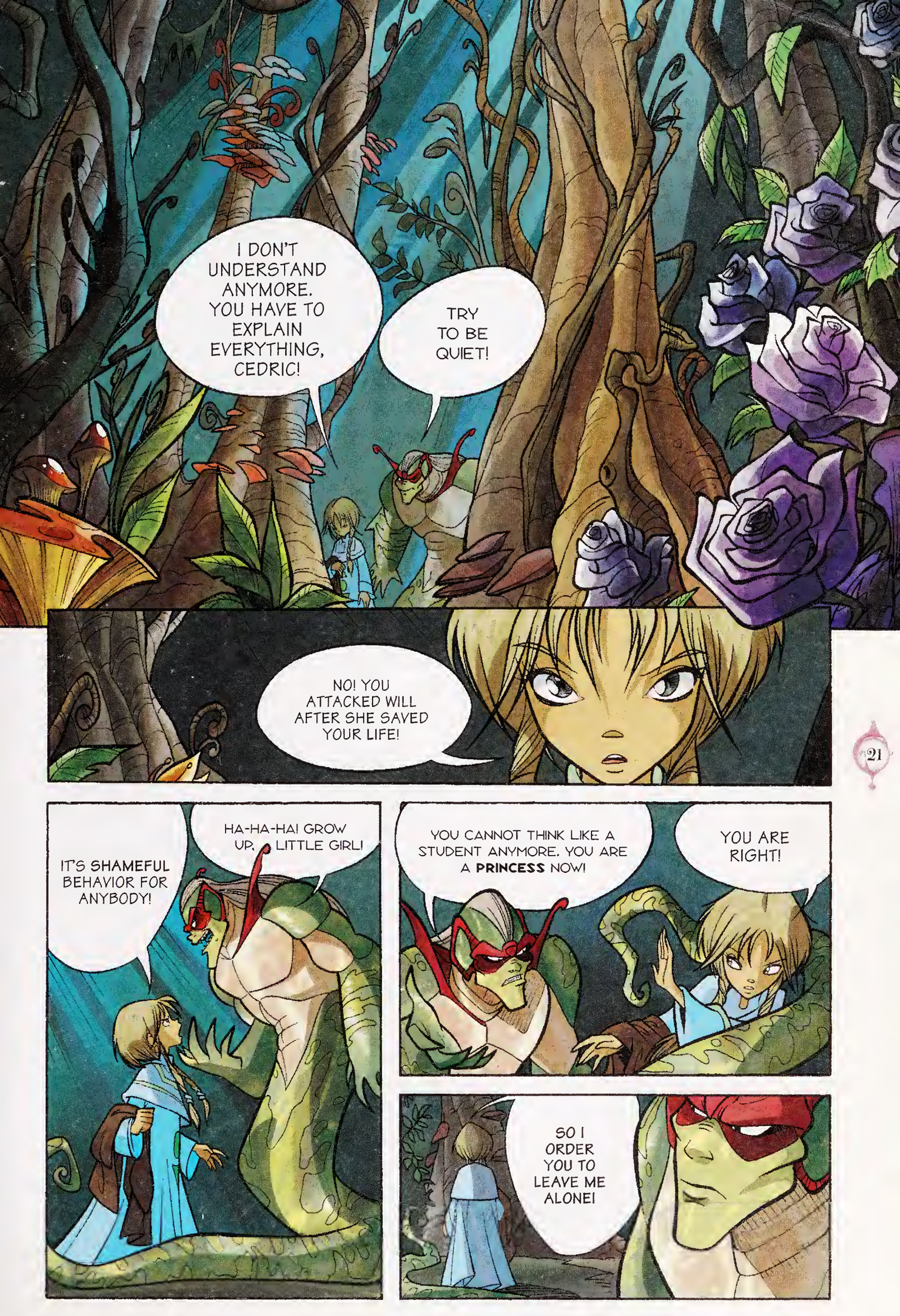
I'M DONE! I HAVE EVERYTHING CALEB ASKED FOR.
CALEB . . .
CALEB
CALEB
CALEB
WHAT'S HAPPENING??? THAT NAME . . .
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
CLANG
GOOD-BYE, GUARDIAN!
WAIT! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
IF YOU HAVE CHANGED, MAYBE ELYON HAS, TOO . . .
MMM . . . DON'T COUNT ON IT. SHE IS A SLAVE TO CEDRIC!
BUT WE CAN TRY, ANYWAY. WHO KNOWS.


A LOT OF COURAGE IS NEEDED

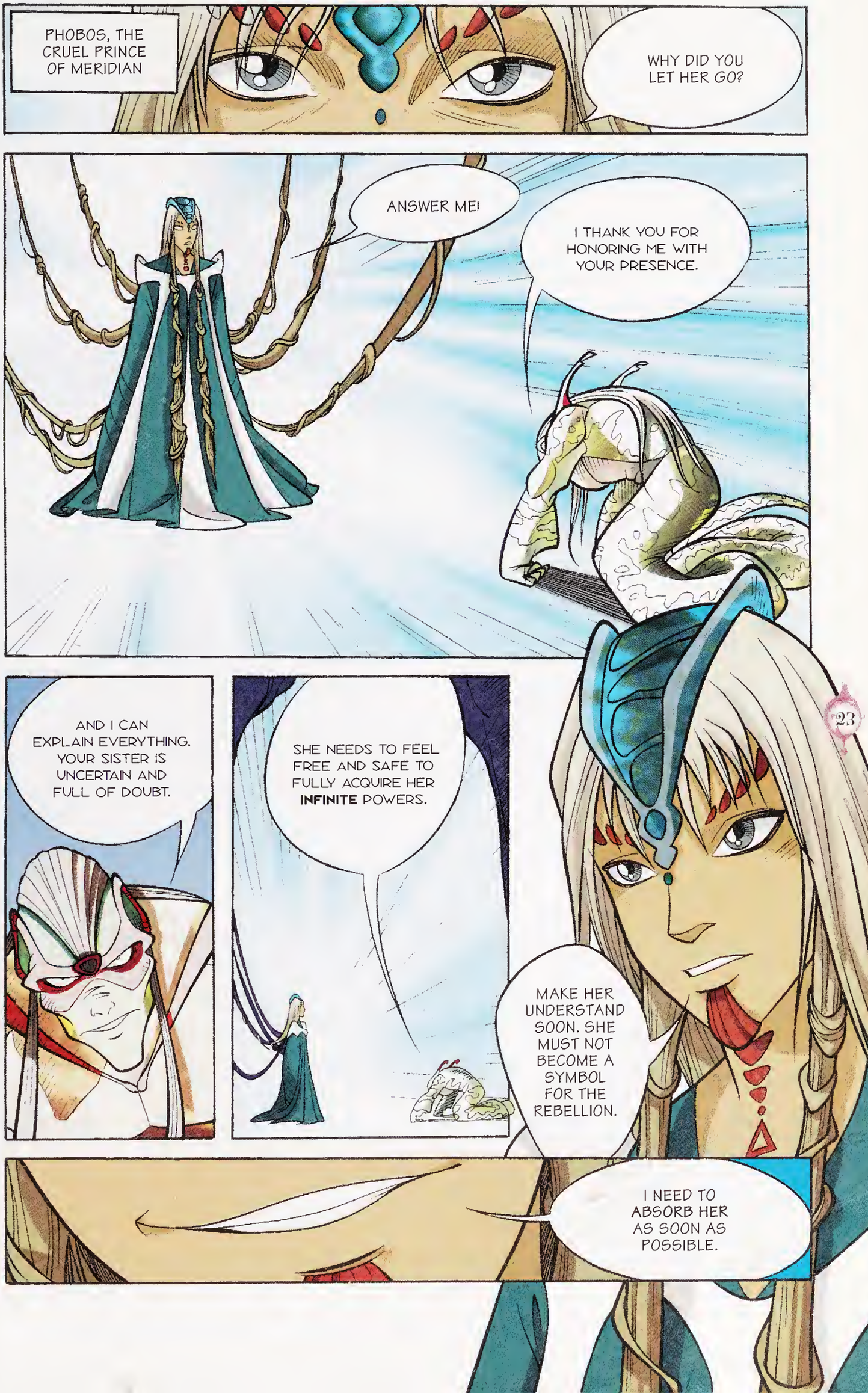
TO FACE THE PROBLEMS


TO OFFER A FLOWER


AND TO MAKE A CHOICE.
BUT JUST HOW MUCH COURAGE IS NEEDED . . .
. . . IN MERIDIAN?


I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYMORE. YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, CEDRIC!
TRY TO BE QUIET!
NO! YOU ATTACKED WILL AFTER SHE SAVED YOUR LIFE!
HA-HA-HA! GROW UP, LITTLE GIRL!
IT'S SHAMEFUL BEHAVIOR FOR ANYBODY!
YOU CANNOT THINK LIKE A STUDENT ANYMORE. YOU ARE A **PRINCESS** NOW!
YOU ARE RIGHT!
SO I ORDER YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I WANT TO SEE MERIDIAN. ALONE!
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE TRY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!
"AND TO FIND THE CAUSE OF THE PAIN THAT IS PRESENT HERE IN METAWORLD!"
WHY DID THE GUARD BURN OUR HOUSES?
DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS, LITTLE ONE.
MUMMY SAYS IT'S PHO—
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD.
PHOBOS? MY BROTHER?

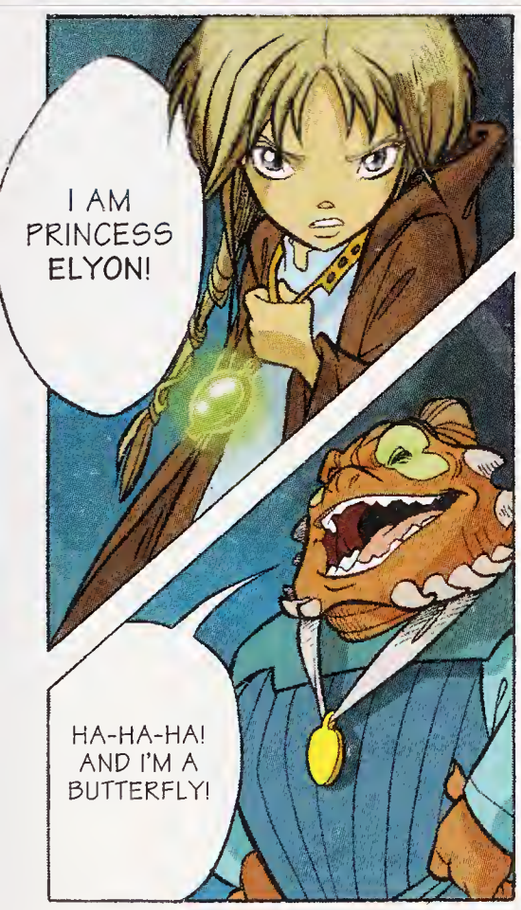

PHOBOS, THE CRUEL PRINCE OF MERIDIAN
WHY DID YOU LET HER GO?
ANSWER ME!
I THANK YOU FOR HONORING ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE.
AND I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. YOUR SISTER IS UNCERTAIN AND FULL OF DOUBT.
SHE NEEDS TO FEEL FREE AND SAFE TO FULLY ACQUIRE HER **INFINITE** POWERS.
MAKE HER UNDERSTAND SOON. SHE MUST NOT BECOME A SYMBOL FOR THE REBELLION.
I NEED TO ABSORB HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN ANOTHER AREA OF MERIDIAN . . .
NOOO!
I CANNOT MAKE IT WITHOUT IRMA AND HAY LIN . . . WITHOUT THE OTHER POWERS.
I . . .
. . . CANNOT . . .
. . . SWIM!
SPLASH!
I LOST HER SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY.
SHE MADE IT OUT! THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING.
AHHH!
WHO'S THAT?

YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HE CAN'T REALLY EXIST!
SHE IS NOT ONE OF US!
SHE CANNOT STAY HERE!
SHE IS HORRIBLE TO LOOK AT!
EXCUSE ME! HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED IN A MIRROR?
BE QUIET! I CAN VOUCH FOR HER!
WHAT A PERFECT THING TO SAY.
SHE'LL BRING US PROBLEMS!
CALEB! THEY'RE COMING!

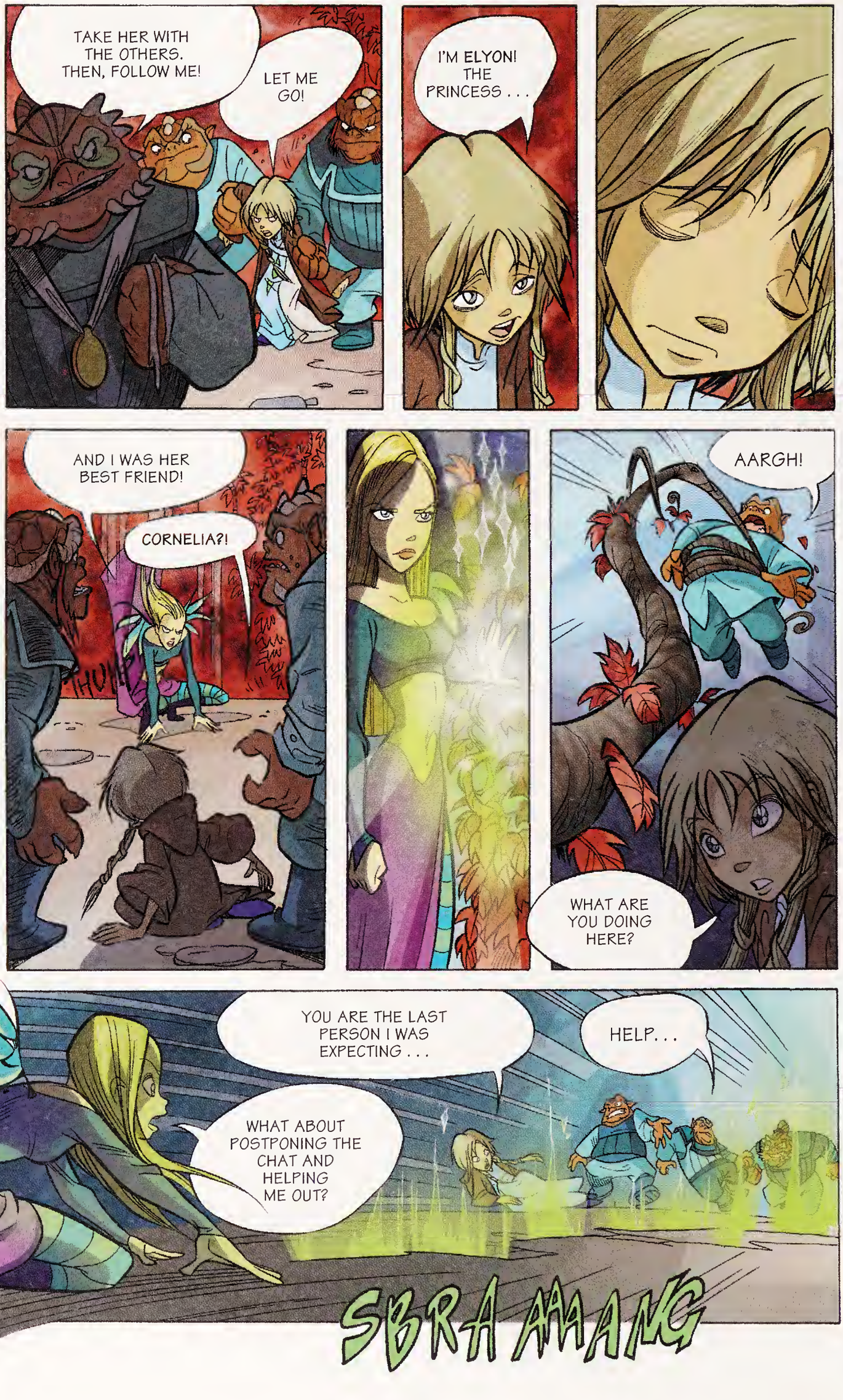
THE SOLDIERS SPOTTED US! THEY ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK.
IT'S THE END!
IT'S HOPELESS.
I KNEW IT!
STOP IT!
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU'D CAUSE PROB-LEMS.
VATHEK! TAKE THE GROUP WITH YOU! THE OTHERS WILL FOLLOW ME.
ALL RIGHT.
COME ON, LET'S GO!
THEY'RE CLOSE. I CAN FEEL IT.
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
QUICK! THEY MUST NOT CATCH US!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
THAT VOICE . . .

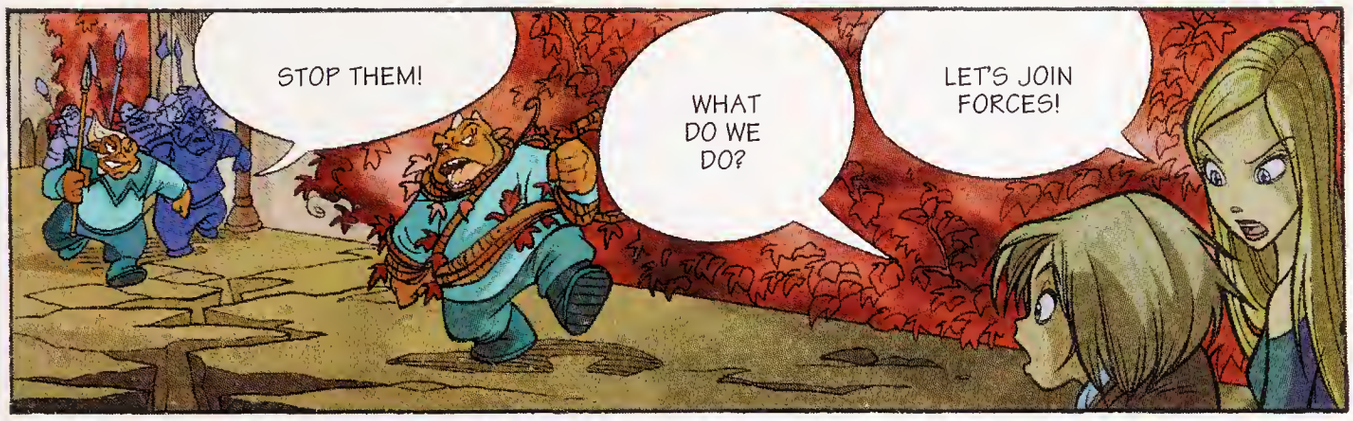
ELYON!
THEY'RE ESCAPING! SURROUND THE BUILDING!
SINCE WHEN DO TRAMPS LIKE YOU WEAR PRECIOUS JEWELS?
TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME AND APOLOGIZE AT ONCE, BIG MONKEY!

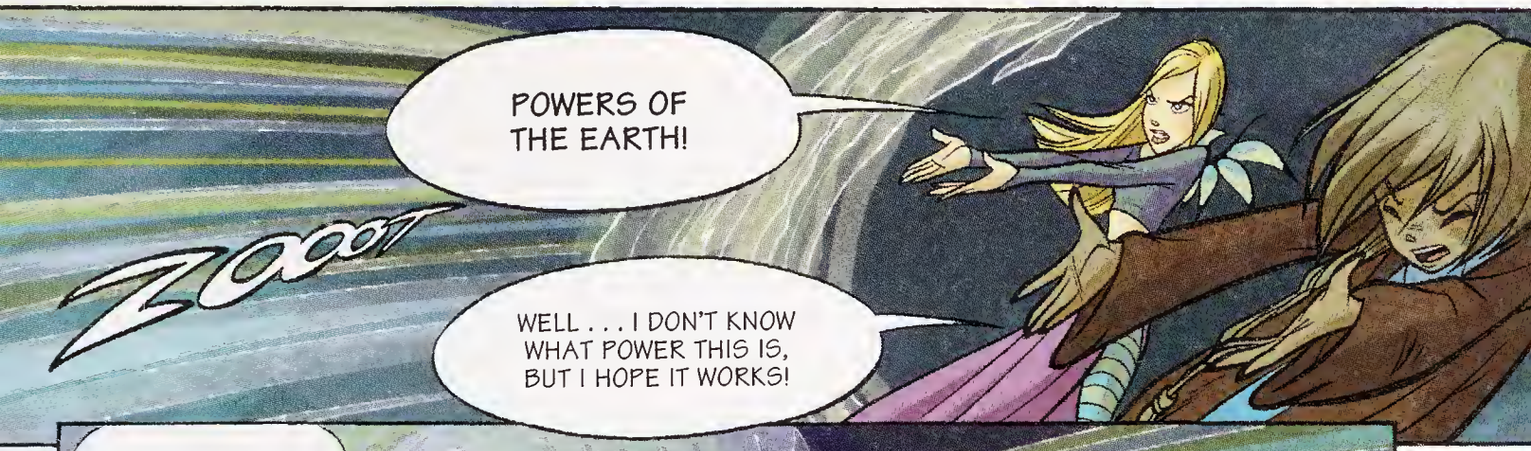

I AM PRINCESS ELYON!
HA-HA-HA! AND I'M A BUTTERFLY!

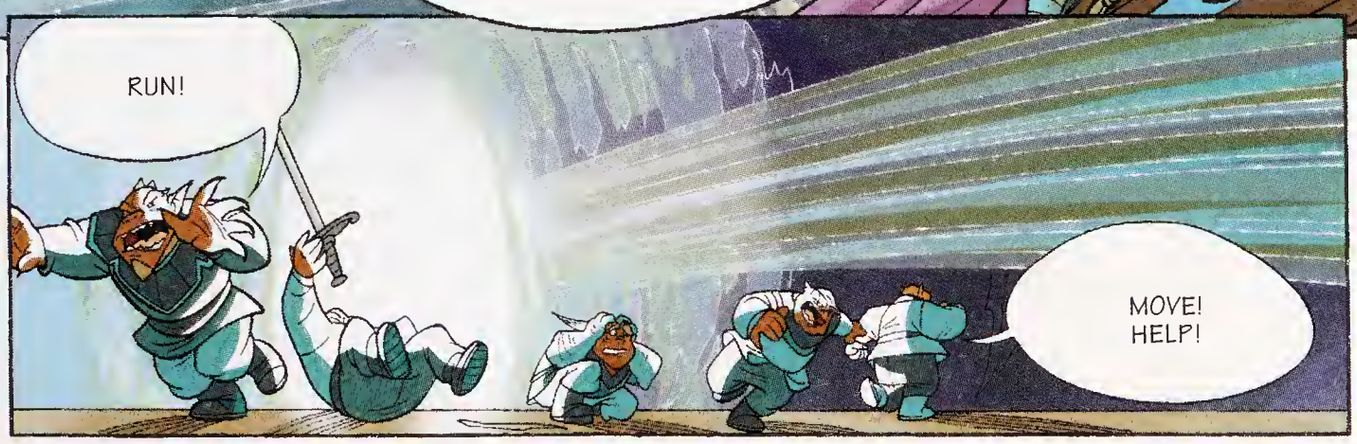
STOP HER!
LET ME GO . . . NO-O-O!
STRAP

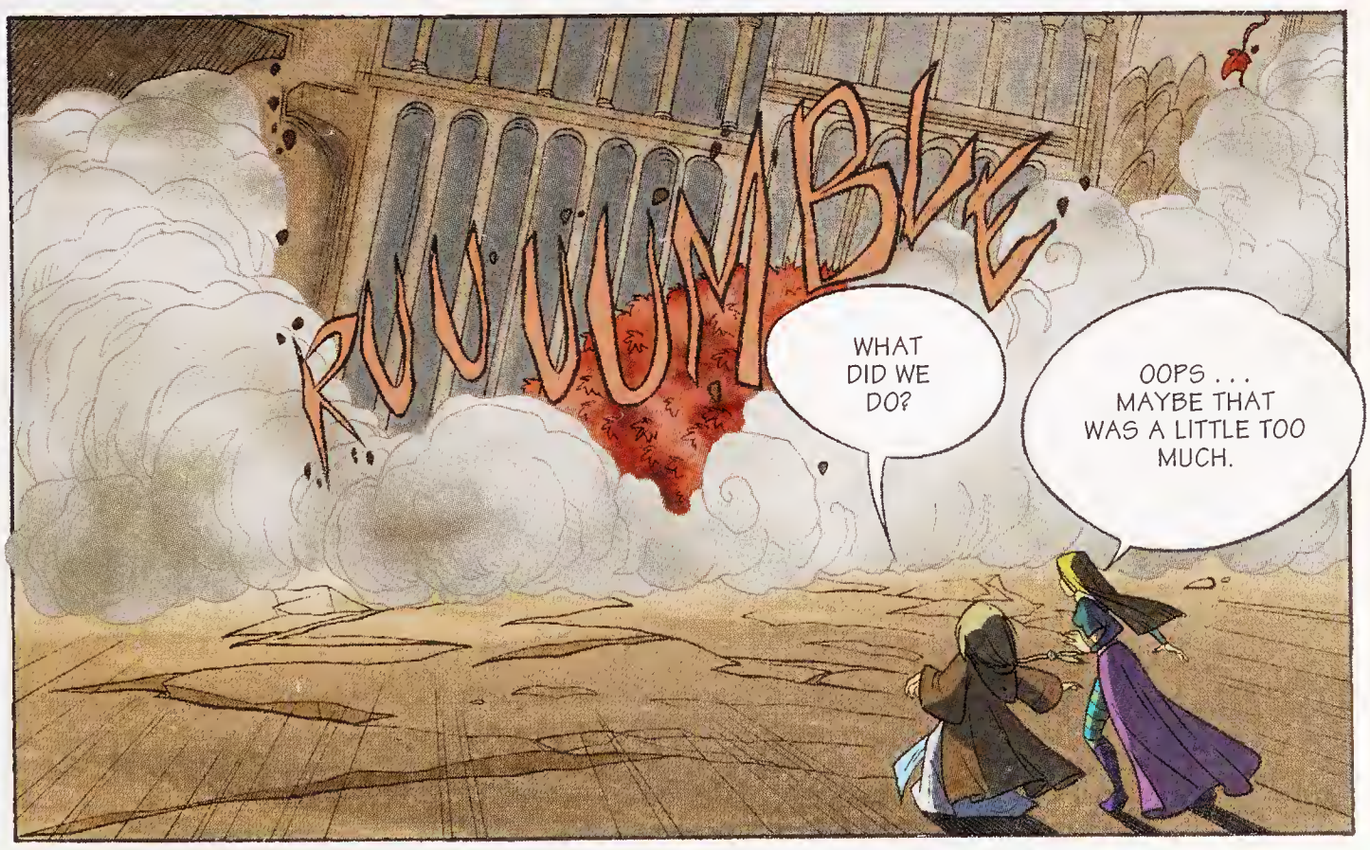
PHOBOS WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS!
SU-U-URE! HE ALWAYS PUNISHES US WHEN WE FOLLOW HIS ORDERS!

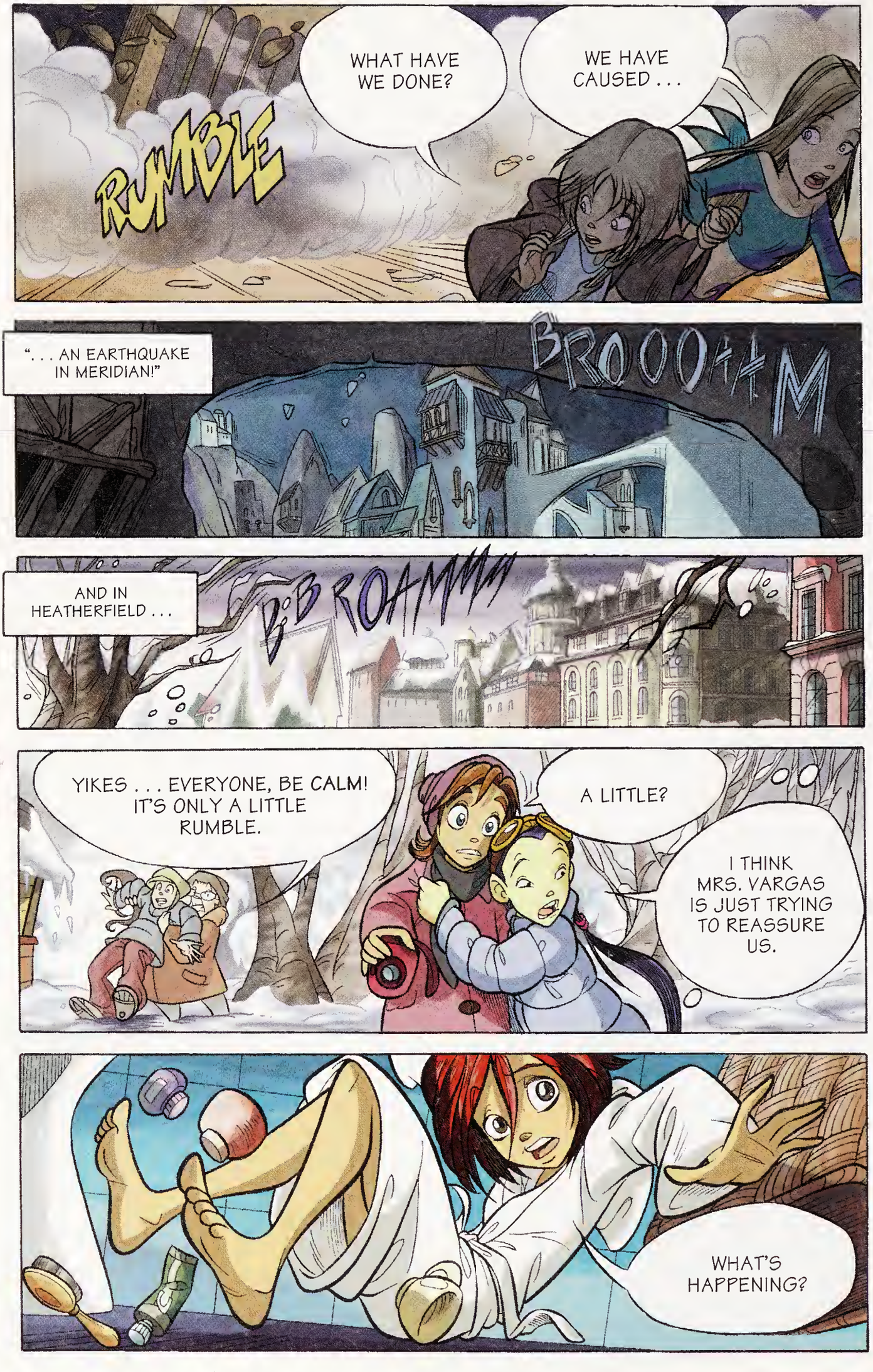

TAKE HER WITH THE OTHERS. THEN, FOLLOW ME!
LET ME GO!
I'M ELYON! THE PRINCESS . . .
AND I WAS HER BEST FRIEND!
CORNELIA?!
AARGH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON I WAS EXPECTING . . .
WHAT ABOUT POSTPONING THE CHAT AND HELPING ME OUT?
HELP. . .
SBRAAAANG

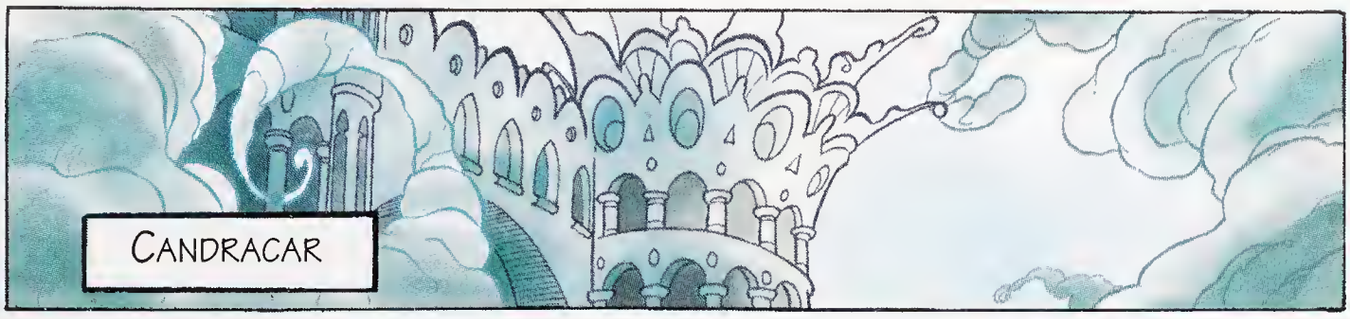

STOP THEM!
WHAT DO WE DO?
LET'S JOIN FORCES!


POWERS OF THE EARTH!
ZOOOT
WELL . . . I DON'T KNOW WHAT POWER THIS IS, BUT I HOPE IT WORKS!


RUN!
MOVE! HELP!

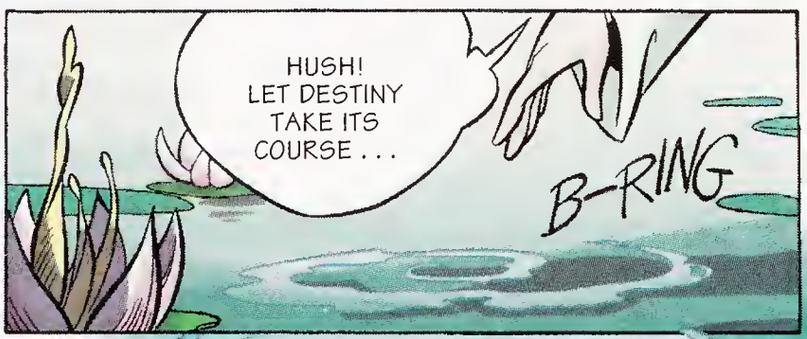

RUUUMBLE
WHAT DID WE DO?
OOPS . . . MAYBE THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO MUCH.


RUMBLE
WHAT HAVE WE DONE?
WE HAVE CAUSED . . .
". . . AN EARTHQUAKE IN MERIDIAN!"
BROOAAM
AND IN HEATHERFIELD . . .
B-BROAMMM
YIKES . . . EVERYONE, BE CALM! IT'S ONLY A LITTLE RUMBLE.
A LITTLE?
I THINK MRS. VARGAS IS JUST TRYING TO REASSURE US.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

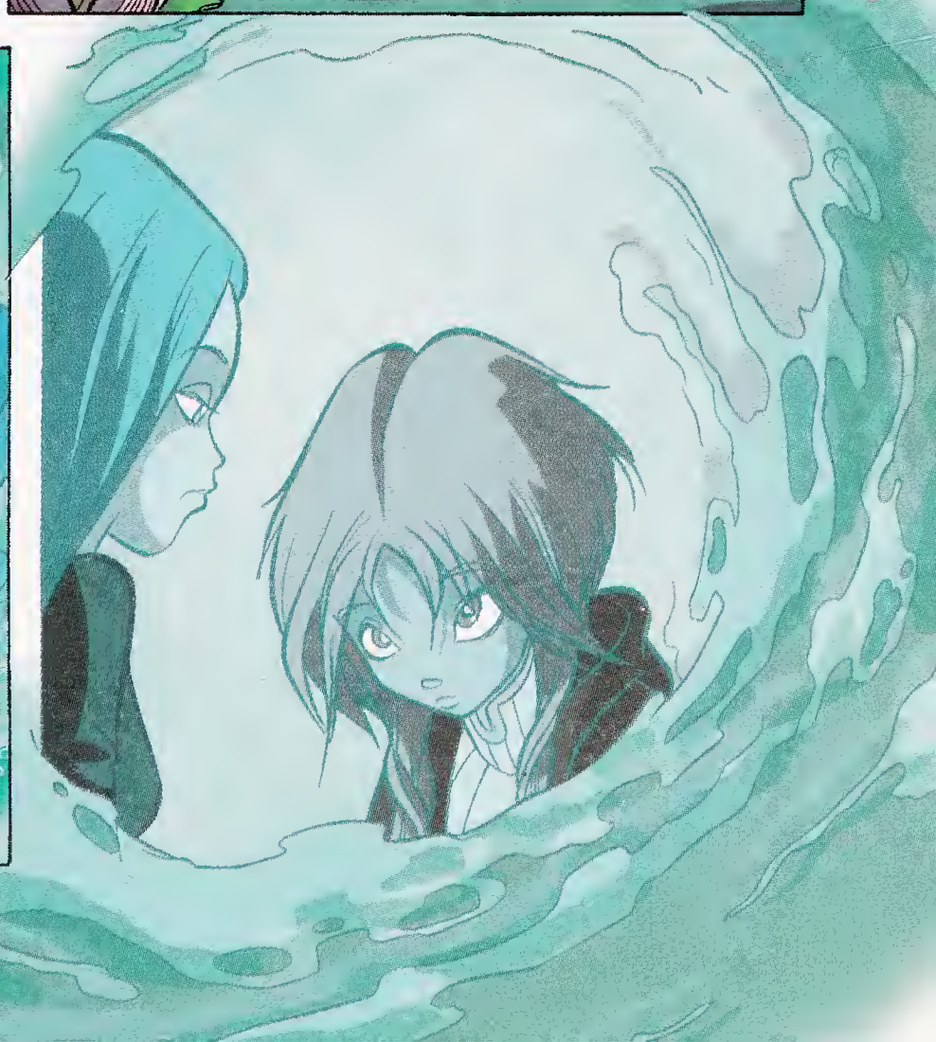

CANDRACAR

THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT! THEY HAVE UNLEASHED DARK FORCES!
BY TEAMING UP, CORNELIA AND ELYON HAVE OPENED A PASSAGE IN THE VEIL.

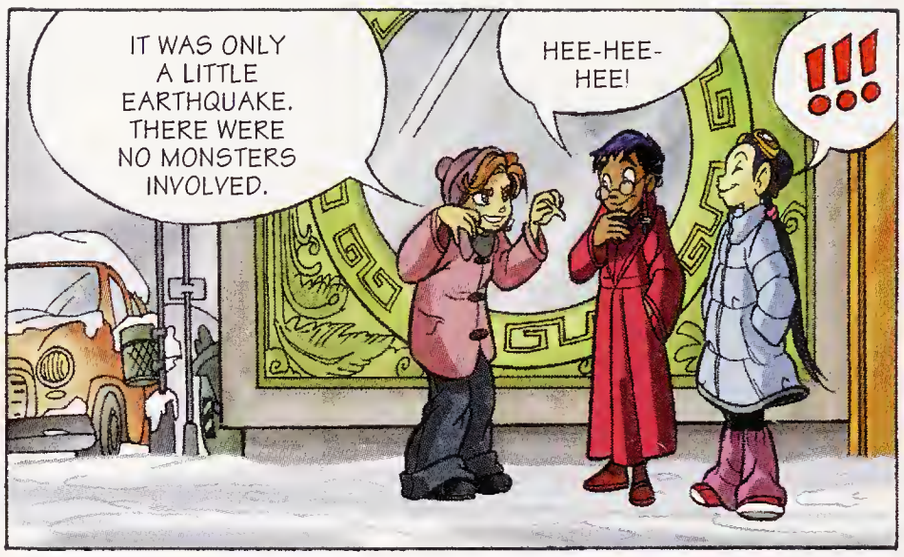
EARTH AND MERIDIAN ARE IN DANGER!
THE GUARDIANS ARE NOT DOING THEIR DUTY!


HUSH! LET DESTINY TAKE ITS COURSE . . .
B-RING

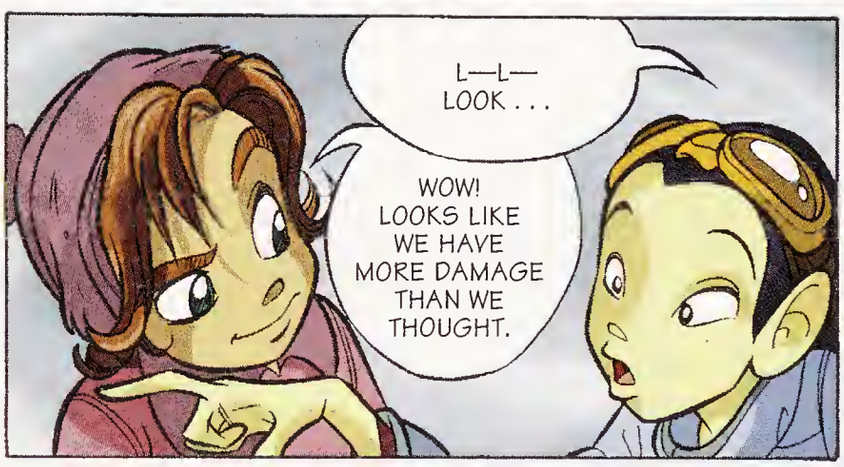
. . . LET THE GIRLS FIND THEMSELVES, AND YOU MUST FIND YOUR TRUST IN THEM.

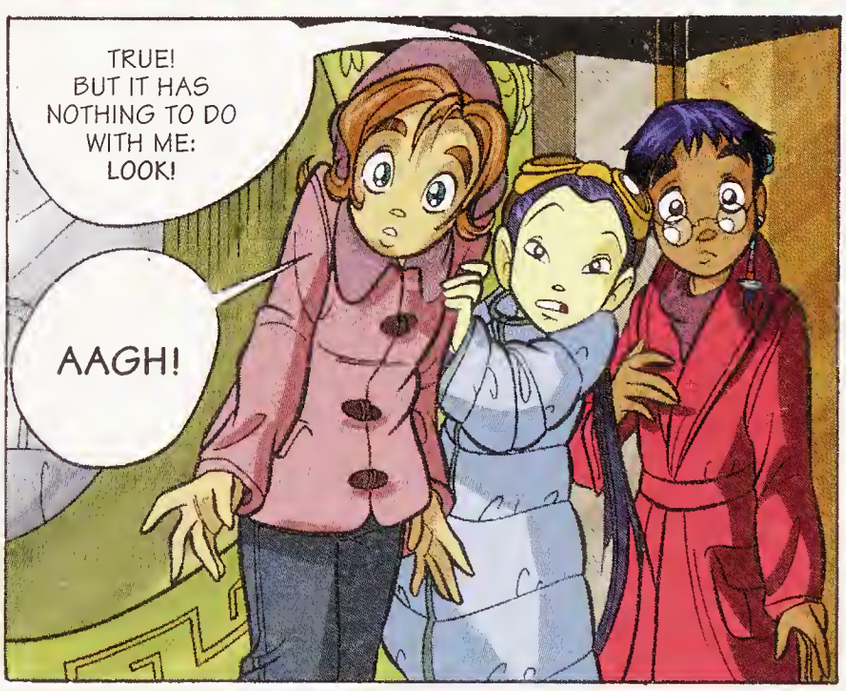


HEATHERFIELD—
THE CALM AFTER
THE EARTHQUAKE . . .
WE WERE
ALL SO
SCARED!
SCARED?
WHY?


IT WAS ONLY
A LITTLE
EARTHQUAKE.
THERE WERE
NO MONSTERS
INVOLVED.
HEE-HEE-
HEE!
!!!

COMPARED
TO OUR MORE
RECENT
ADVENTURES,
THIS IS
NOTHING.
L—
L—
LOOK . . .

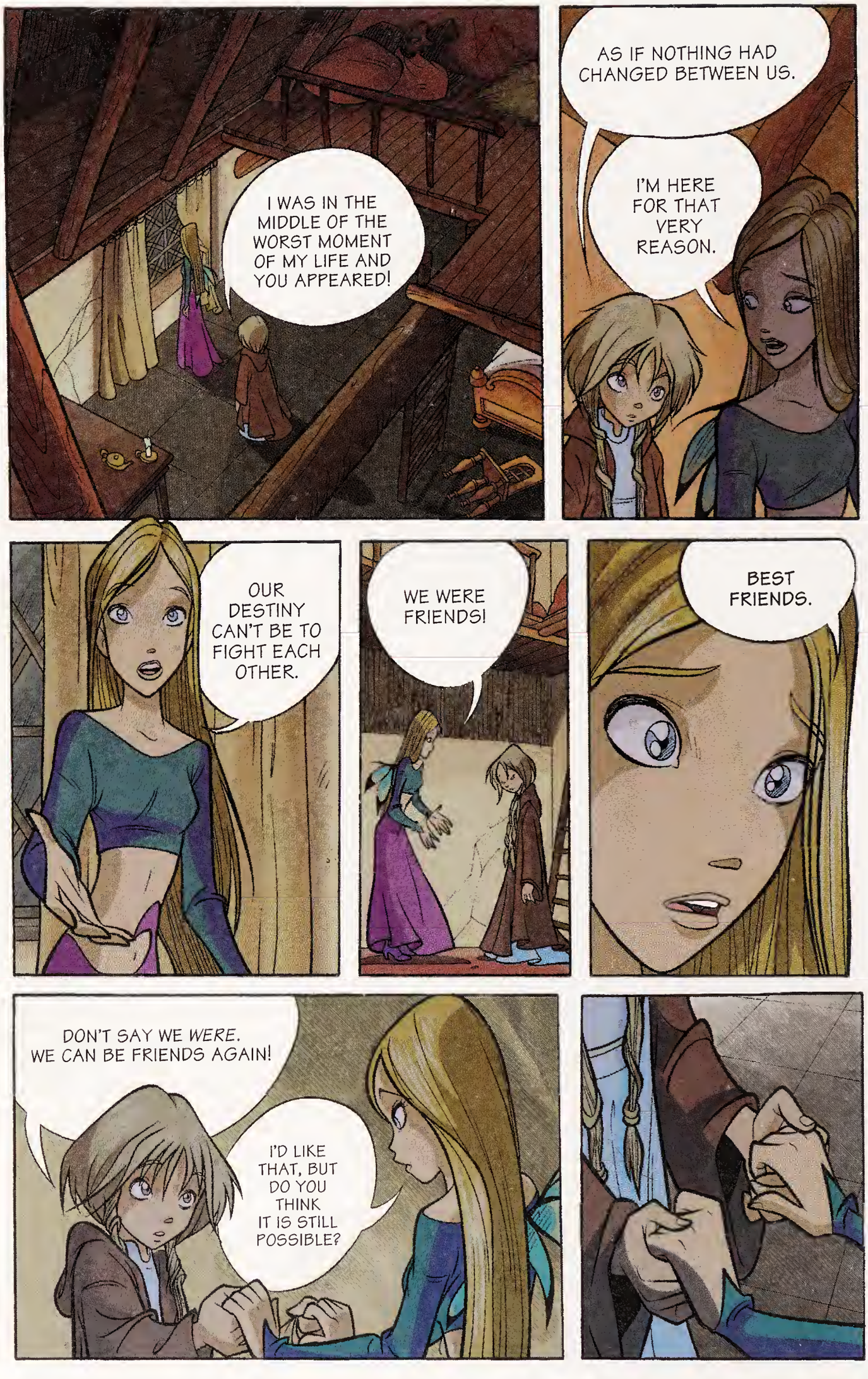

L—L—
LOOK . . .
WOW!
LOOKS LIKE
WE HAVE
MORE DAMAGE
THAN WE
THOUGHT.

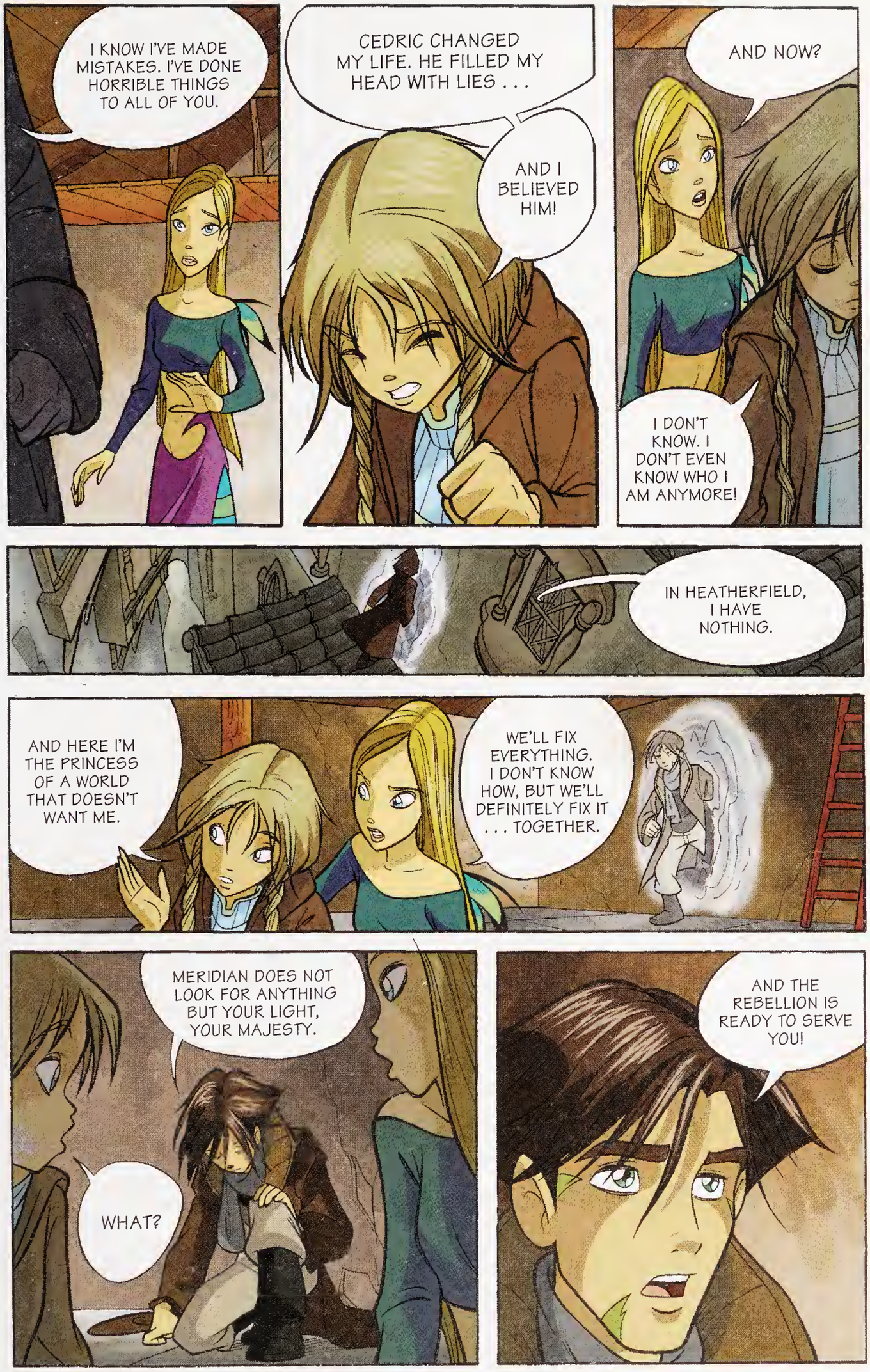

TRUE!
BUT IT HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH ME:
LOOK!
AAGH!

TELL US THE TRUTH. YOU WERE HELD HOSTAGE BY A GROUP OF FIERCE AND TOTALLY BACKWARD STYLISTS, RIGHT?
HMMM . . . I SMELL A DATE!
JUST LIKE TARANEE DID WITH NIGEL. WILL HASN'T TOLD US ABOUT THE BIG DATE YET!
I NEVER SAID I WENT OUT WITH NIGEL!
YOU FORGET— I HAVE POWERS!
SO? WHAT'S UP, WILL?
NOTHING!
I JUST WANTED TO CHANGE MY LOOK!
GIVE IT TO MATT, PLEASE!
WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU HAVE CHANGED!
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE WILL!
THAT'S ALREADY SOMETHING!
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, OKAY? WHY WAS THIS MEETING SO IMPORTANT, HAY LIN?
I ALMOST FORGOT!
SPLAT
LUCKILY, I HAVE MY HANDS!
AND NOW YOUR FOREHEAD, TOO!
9AM
MAP

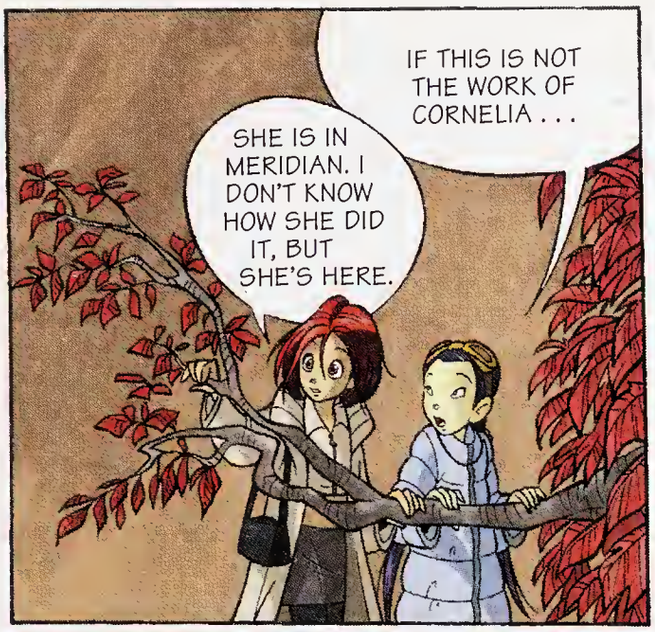
I HAVE NEWS . . .
I HOPE ITS GOOD NEWS.
WELL, TO START, A NEW PORTAL HAS OPENED.
THIS IS NOT GOOD NEWS . . . AND NOT REALLY NEWS AT ALL . . .
LET HER FINISH!
YOU CAN SEE THAT THIS PORTAL IS DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL ONES.
AND LISTENING TO THE RADIO, I FOUND OUT THAT IT CORRESPONDS TO THE EPICENTER OF THE EARTHQUAKE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS?
TROUBLE! THAT'S WHAT!
IF THE PORTAL AND THE EARTHQUAKE ARE LINKED, THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
I HAVE A QUESTION.

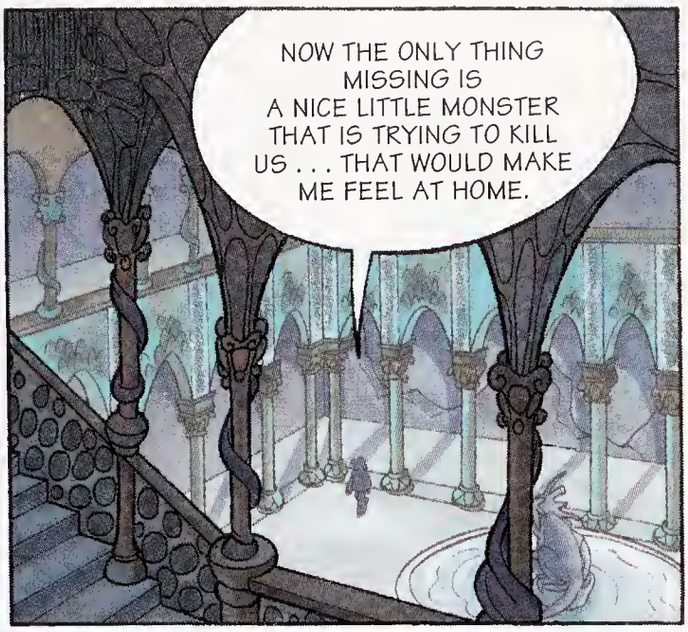
OKAY, WHAT IS IT?
SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR CORNELIA?
I CALLED HER A BUNCH OF TIMES, BUT SHE WASN'T HOME.
PLEASE TELL ME SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS . . .
RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHY WOULD THE EARTHQUAKE INVOLVE CORNELIA?
CORNELIA WANTED TO GO TO MERIDIAN TO FIND ELYON.
"BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ALONE, RIGHT?"
FSSHHH
?
LOOKS LIKE THE SOLDIERS ARE GONE.


I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORST MOMENT OF MY LIFE AND YOU APPEARED!
AS IF NOTHING HAD CHANGED BETWEEN US.
I'M HERE FOR THAT VERY REASON.
OUR DESTINY CAN'T BE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.
WE WERE FRIENDS!
BEST FRIENDS.
DON'T SAY WE *WERE*. WE CAN BE FRIENDS AGAIN!
I'D LIKE THAT, BUT DO YOU THINK IT IS STILL POSSIBLE?


I KNOW I'VE MADE MISTAKES. I'VE DONE HORRIBLE THINGS TO ALL OF YOU.
CEDRIC CHANGED MY LIFE. HE FILLED MY HEAD WITH LIES . . .
AND I BELIEVED HIM!
AND NOW?
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM ANYMORE!
IN HEATHERFIELD, I HAVE NOTHING.
AND HERE I'M THE PRINCESS OF A WORLD THAT DOESN'T WANT ME.
WE'LL FIX EVERYTHING. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT WE'LL DEFINITELY FIX IT . . . TOGETHER.
MERIDIAN DOES NOT LOOK FOR ANYTHING BUT YOUR LIGHT, YOUR MAJESTY.
WHAT?
AND THE REBELLION IS READY TO SERVE YOU!

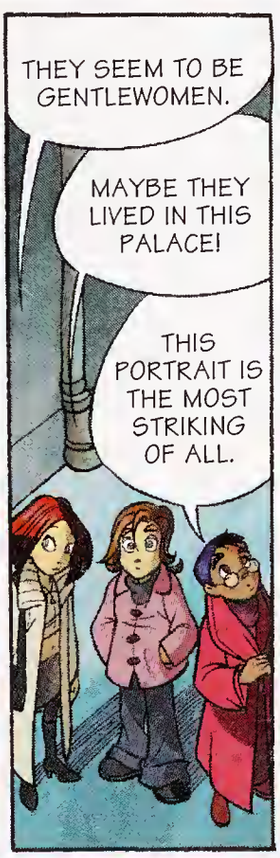
UNDERGROUND, IN THE SUBWAY SYSTEMS OF HEATHERFIELD
PLIC PLIC
LOOK! HERE'S A PASSAGE!
THIS PLACE IS JUST ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL! I REALLY WISH I LIVED HERE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PORTAL OPEN AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
YEAH, WELL, MAYBE THIS ONE WILL LEAD RIGHT TO THE PALACE.
WELL . . . THAT WOULD BE CONVENIENT.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A BUILDING IN HEATHERFIELD.
MAYBE IT IS SOME KIND OF GIFT FROM METAMOOR?
LOOK!

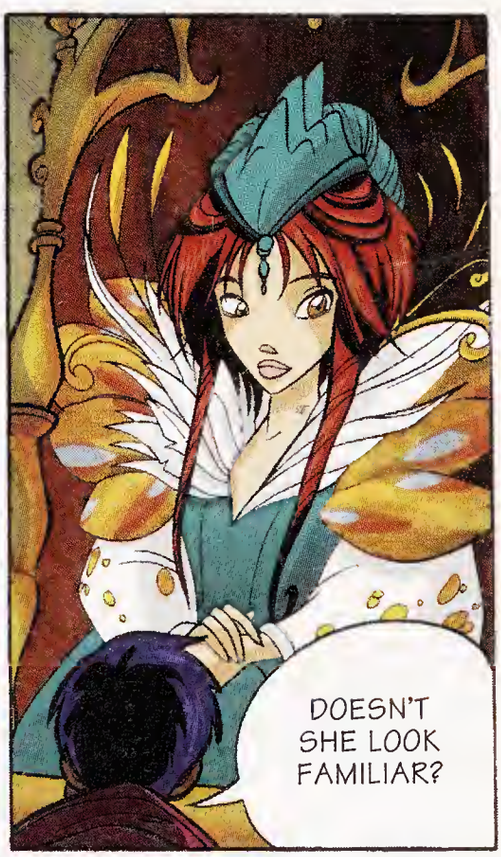

IF THIS IS NOT THE WORK OF CORNELIA . . .
SHE IS IN MERIDIAN. I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DID IT, BUT SHE'S HERE.


NOW THE ONLY THING MISSING IS A NICE LITTLE MONSTER THAT IS TRYING TO KILL US . . . THAT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL AT HOME.

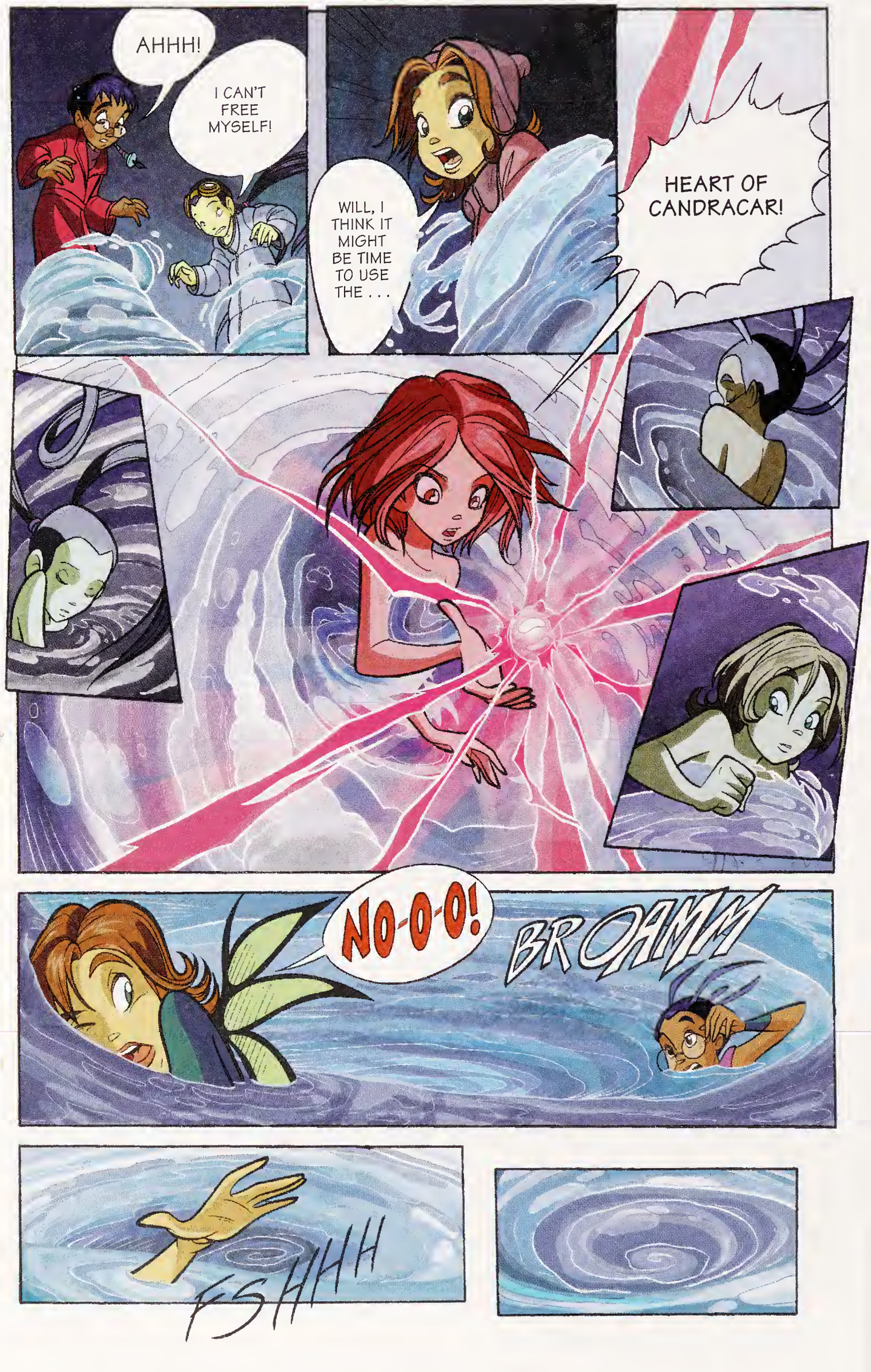
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT! THIS PLACE FREAKS ME OUT.
DON'T WORRY. I WAS ONLY JOKING AROUND.

MAYBE YOU'RE SCARED BECAUSE THOSE FACES ARE STARING RIGHT AT US.
WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?


THEY SEEM TO BE GENTLEWOMEN.
MAYBE THEY LIVED IN THIS PALACE!
THIS PORTRAIT IS THE MOST STRIKING OF ALL.

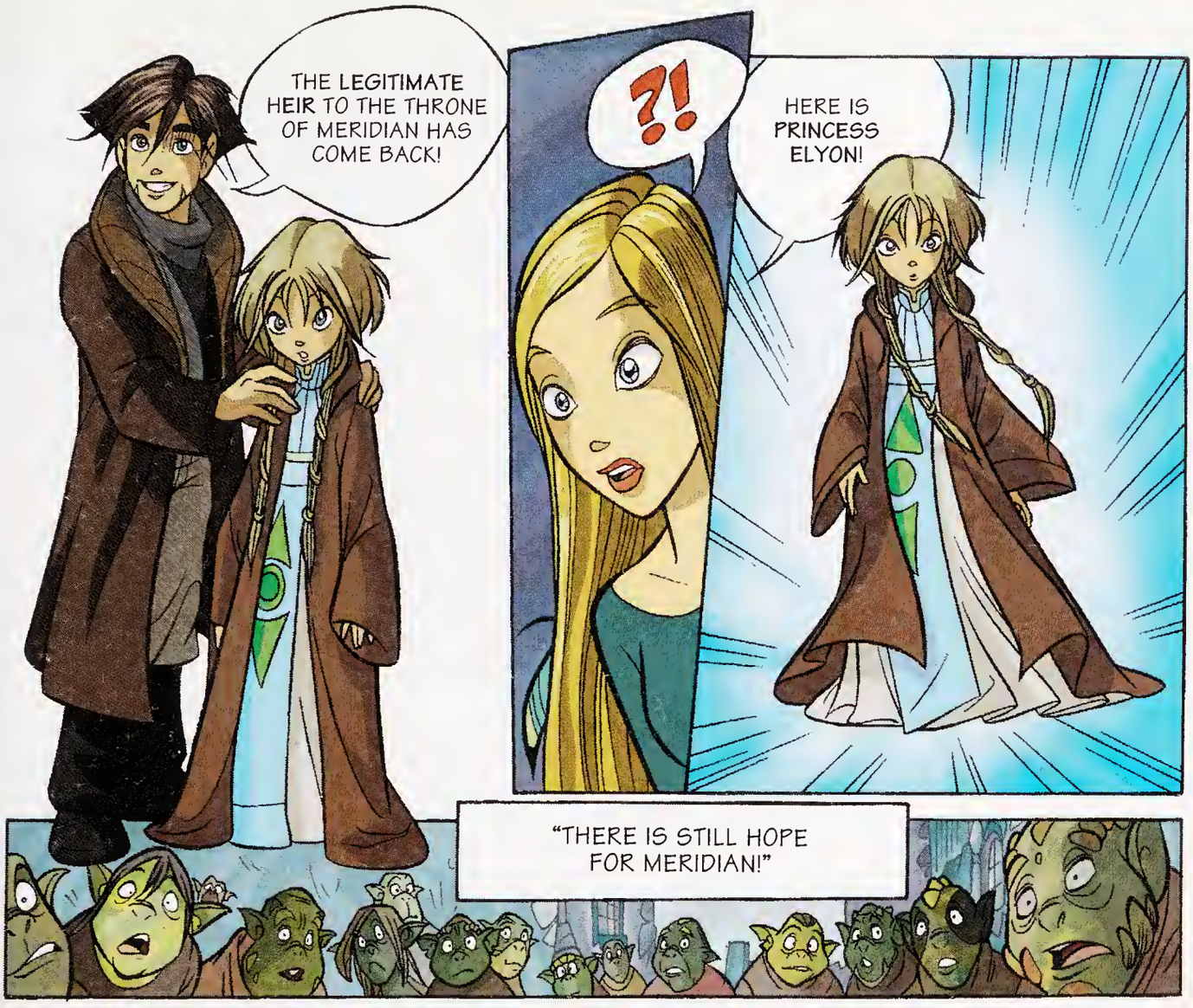

DOESN'T SHE LOOK FAMILIAR?

BUT WHAT . . .
FSHHH

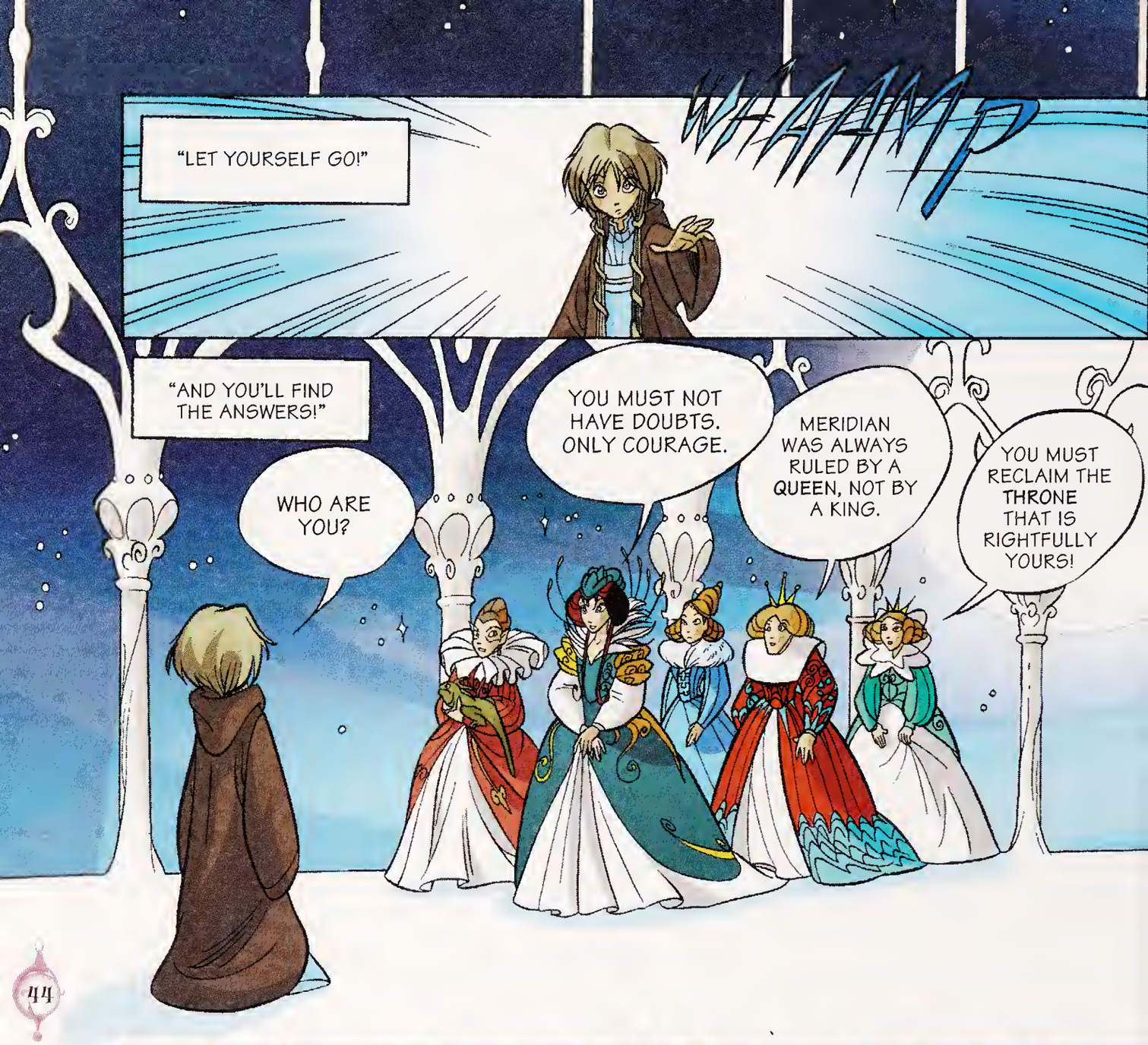

AHHH!
I CAN'T FREE MYSELF!
WILL, I THINK IT MIGHT BE TIME TO USE THE . . .
HEART OF CANDRACAR!
NO-O-O!
BROAMM
FSHHH

IN FRONT OF THE PORTAL, DREAMS AND FEARS OVERLAP ONE ANOTHER.
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE. MAYBE, BY GOING THROUGH THE PORTAL, WE'LL REACH A BETTER PLACE.
I DON'T WANT TO GO!
IF THE PEOPLE GO THROUGH THE OPENING ALL AT THE SAME TIME, IT WILL BE HORRIFIC.
I AM THE CAUSE OF THIS DISASTER.
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO HEATHERFIELD AND CLOSE THE PORTAL.
AT LEAST YOU CAN DO SOMETHING, CORNELIA.
BELIEVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY. . .
" . . . YOU CAN DO A LOT FOR THIS WORLD!"
ARE WE SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT CHOICE?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU BELONG TO THE REBEL FORCES THAT FIGHT AGAINST MY BROTHER.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO HELP ME, IF YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
WHAT I'M WONDERING IS . . .
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE?

"ARE YOU WILLING TO EMBRACE YOUR PEOPLE?"
IT'S CALEB!
WITH THE GIRLS WHO HAVE OPENED THE WAY!
WILL THIS PASSAGE REALLY LEAD US TO THE EARTH?!
LISTEN TO ME! I KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAIN AND SUFFERING!
YOU HAVE BEEN BEARING THE CRUELTIES OF PHOBOS FOR TOO LONG!
USING DECEPTION, THE TYRANT TOOK ALL OF MERIDIAN'S ENERGY, AND THEN, HE SEIZED THE THRONE.
WHAT IS HE SAYING?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN IS NOT DEAD!
WHAT? THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
THE EARTH GIRL HAS MADE HIM CRAZY!


THE LEGITIMATE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF MERIDIAN HAS COME BACK!
?!
HERE IS PRINCESS ELYON!
"THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR MERIDIAN!"

WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE!
I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BABY!
YEEEHOO!
YOU'LL PUNISH PHOBOS BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN BAD, RIGHT, PRINCESS?
WELCOME TO MERIDIAN.
WHAT DO I DO?


WHAMP
"LET YOURSELF GO!"
"AND YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWERS!"
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU MUST NOT HAVE DOUBTS. ONLY COURAGE.
MERIDIAN WAS ALWAYS RULED BY A **QUEEN**, NOT BY A KING.
YOU MUST RECLAIM THE **THRONE** THAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS!

NOW GO, AND DO WHAT YOU MUST DO.
DO NOT BE AFRAID.
"MY DAUGHTER!"

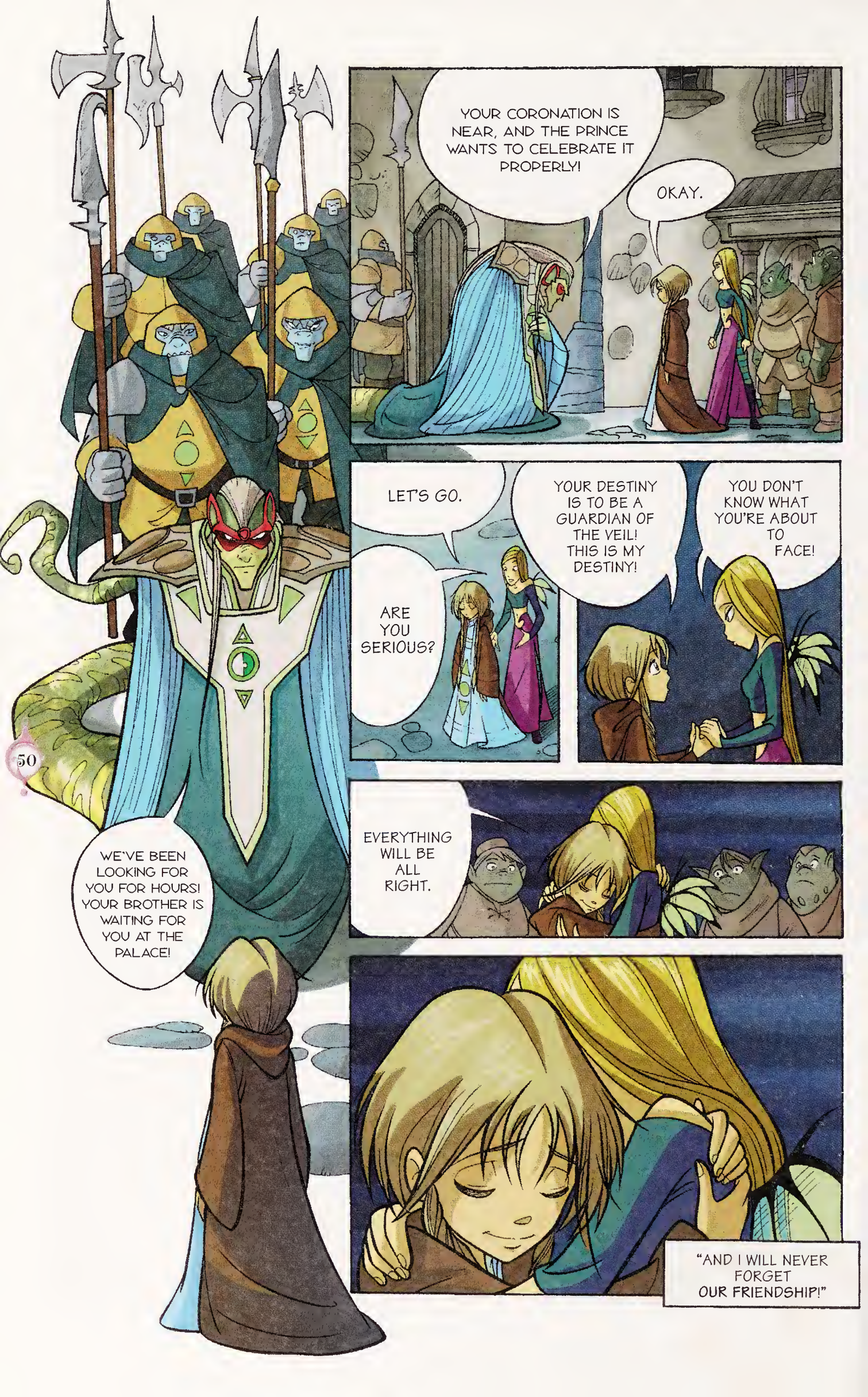
"... DON'T GO AWAY!"
YOU WON'T LEAVE US, WILL YOU?
WE BEG YOU!
I PROMISE. BUT DON'T BEG ANYMORE, PLEASE.
GIVE US THE REBELS!
THOSE WHO SIDE WITH THE REBELS WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU WHAT HE MEANS.
BOW DOWN TO YOUR QUEEN!
GO AWAY!
GET THEM!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS ALONE!
GO AND FIND SHELTER!

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, CORNELIA'S FRIENDS ARRIVE . . .
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
WOW! THAT WAS AN UNCOMFORTABLE TRIP!
I'M JUST GLAD WE MADE IT.
BLUB
ZOING
GASP! I TAKE IT BACK!
STUMP
WE HAVE TO SAVE THE PRINCESS.
?!?
WANT SOME HELP?
WOOSH
WHOA! UNEXPECTED BUT TOTALLY APPRECIATED!

SHAATZ
WOOSH
AN ATTACK TODAY, THE ENEMY IS BLOWN AWAY!
WOOSH
YOUR ATTACK ISN'T NEARLY AS BAD AS YOUR RHYME, IRMA!
WHEN YOU GET A MINUTE, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US WHAT IS GOING ON.
YOU GUYS ARE NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE ME.
FWZZ
BLONK
"BUT I WASN'T WRONG ABOUT ELYON!"
WATCH OUT!
HEY!
TUMP
STAY CALM!
TUMP
BE CAREFUL, DON'T HURT YOURSELF!
"YOU HAVE FAILED . . . AGAIN."

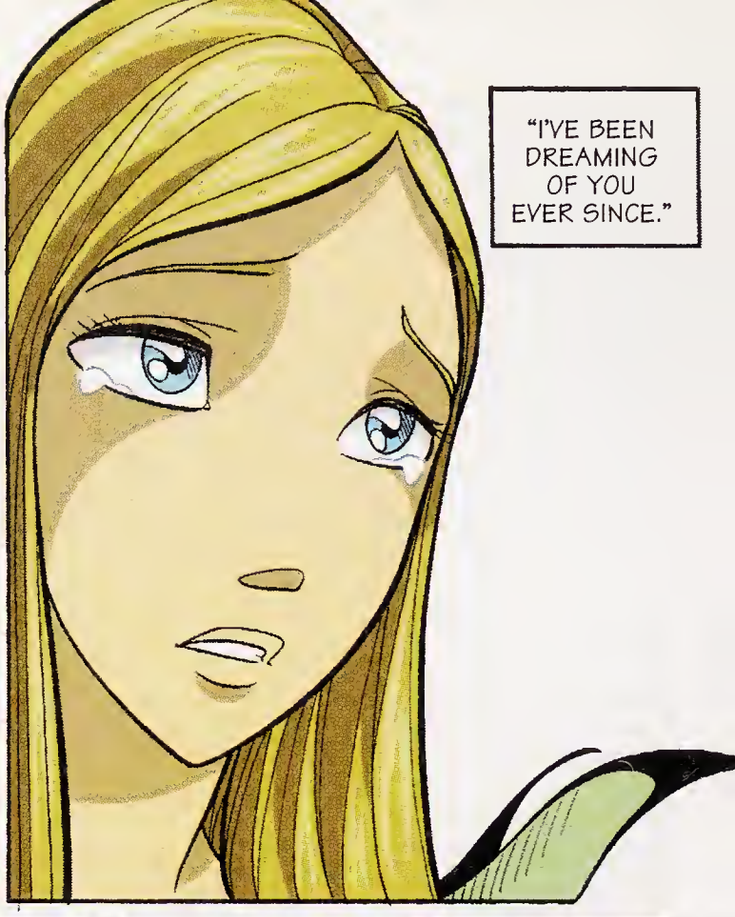
"YOU KNOW YOUR DESTINY, LORD CEDRIC."
AAARGH!
I CONDEMN YOU TO . . .
AAAGH . . .
WAIT, PLEASE . . .
GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR!
IT WILL MAKE YOUR SISTER FEEL STRONGER, AND THEN SHE WILL BE READY TO BE ABSORBED SOONER.
FINE, THEN MAKE IT SO.
"AND DON'T FAIL ME AGAIN. BECAUSE THE NEXT FAILURE WILL BE YOUR LAST."

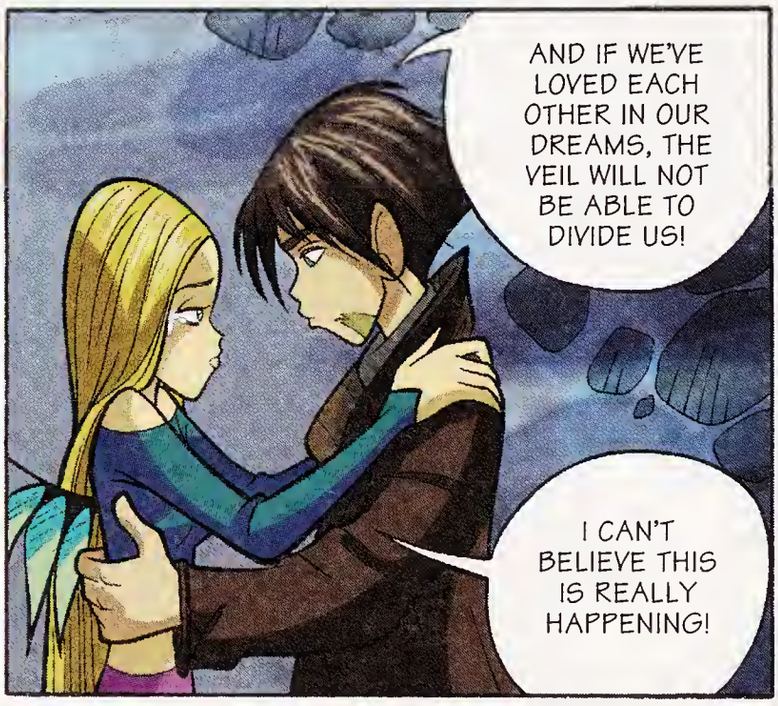
"DON'T FORGET."
AND IF WE HAVE TO, WE'LL DO IT AGAIN.
FOR THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE DEFEATED THEM!
THE PRINCESS GAVE US STRENGTH!
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE CHANGING AROUND HERE!
UM . . . I'M NOT CONVINCED!
WHEN HAS ANYTHING EVER ENDED WELL?
WHAT ABOUT THE SUBWAY PORTAL? WE FOUND THAT AND CAME HERE . . .
WAIT! I'M NOT SURE IF . . .
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, YOUR MAJESTY?

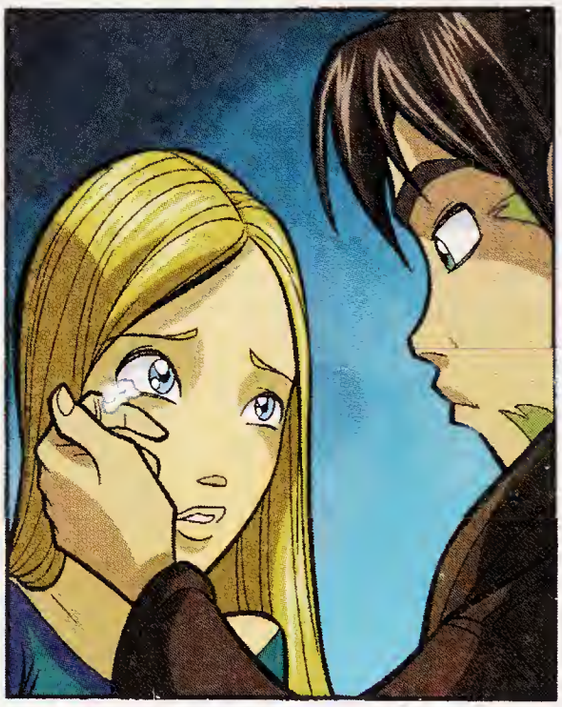

YOUR CORONATION IS NEAR, AND THE PRINCE WANTS TO CELEBRATE IT PROPERLY!
OKAY.
LET'S GO.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YOUR DESTINY IS TO BE A GUARDIAN OF THE VEIL! THIS IS MY DESTINY!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO FACE!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR HOURS! YOUR BROTHER IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE PALACE!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
"AND I WILL NEVER FORGET OUR FRIENDSHIP!"

THE GUARDS ESCORT ELYON AND PHOBOS TO THE PALACE.
I GUESS WE CAN GO BACK TO HEATHERFIELD.
I WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP THROUGH THAT DISGUSTING MUSH!
IF YOU KNOW A MORE COMFORTABLE WAY, I'D BE HAPPY TO HEAR IT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
I HAVE TO TELL HIM!
UM . . . I JUST WANTED . . .
WELL . . . I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT . . . I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE.
I KNOW.
"YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN."

IT WAS WRITTEN THAT ELYON WOULD COME BACK, AS IT WAS WRITTEN THAT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN.
I BELIEVE THAT.


"I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF YOU EVER SINCE."


AND IF WE'VE LOVED EACH OTHER IN OUR DREAMS, THE VEIL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DIVIDE US!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING!



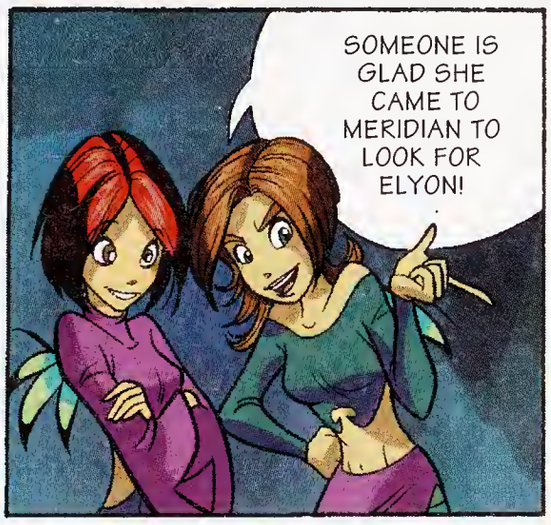
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
A TEAR?

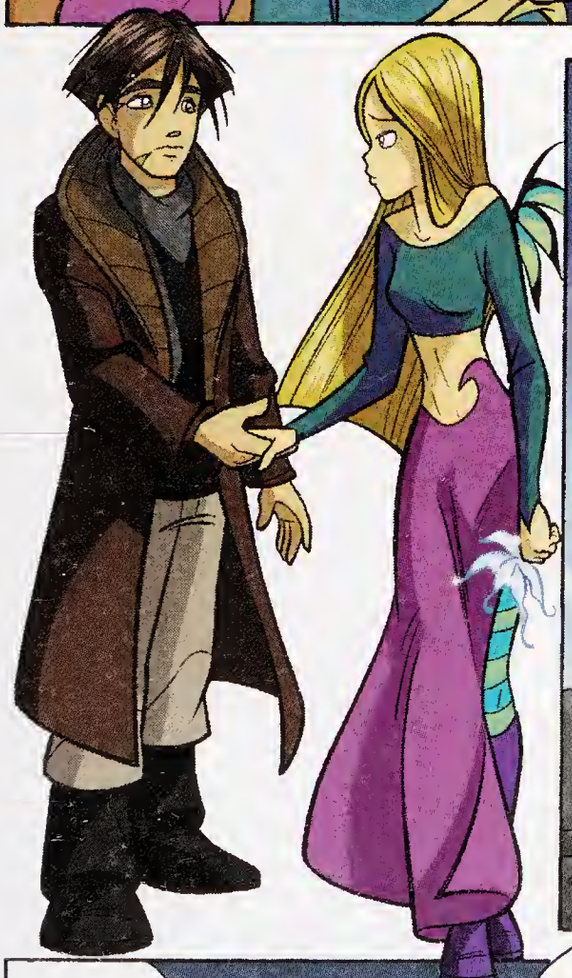
LOOK CLOSELY!

"IT'S A PROMISE."

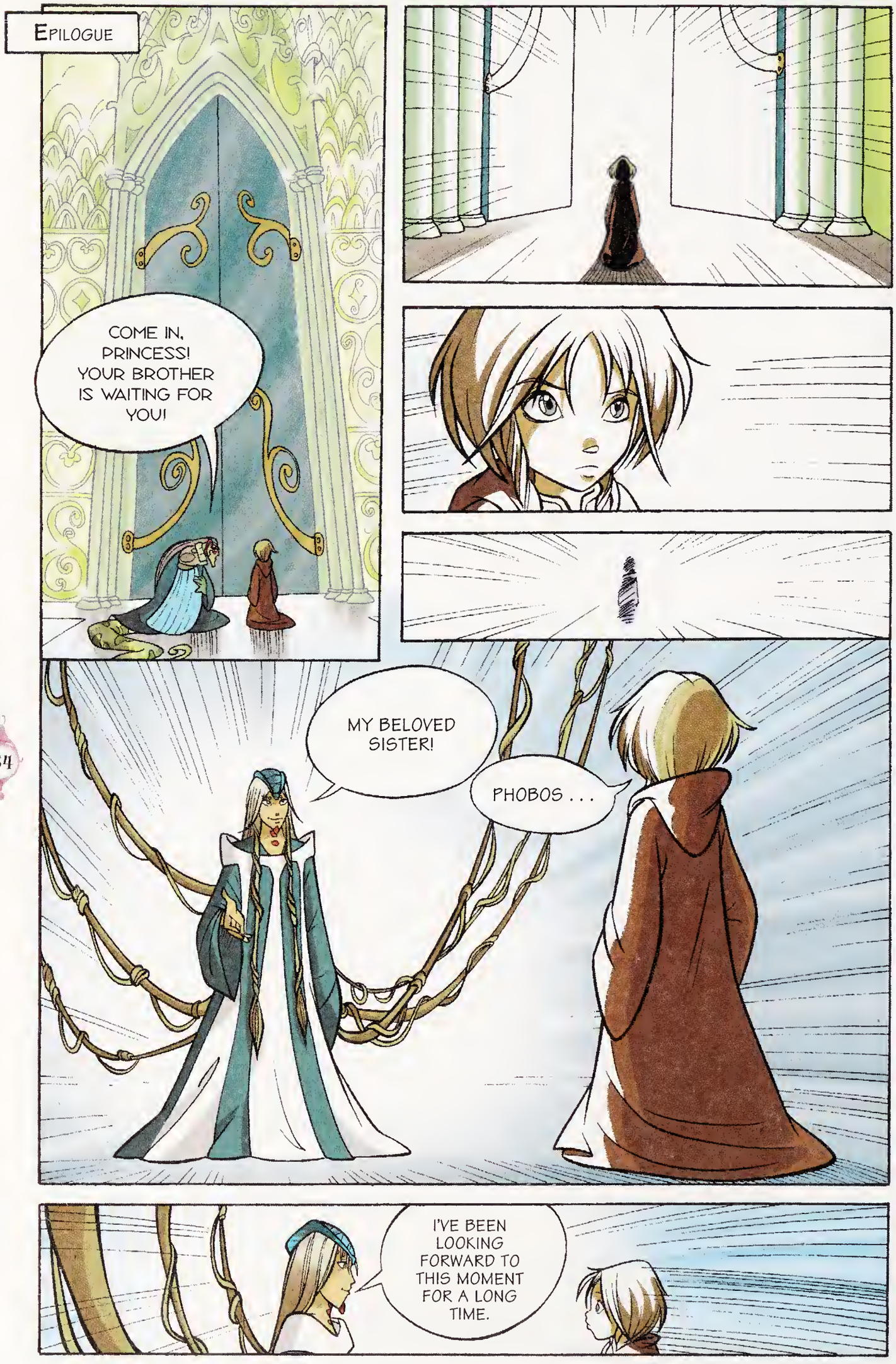
"ONE DAY WE'LL MEET AGAIN."

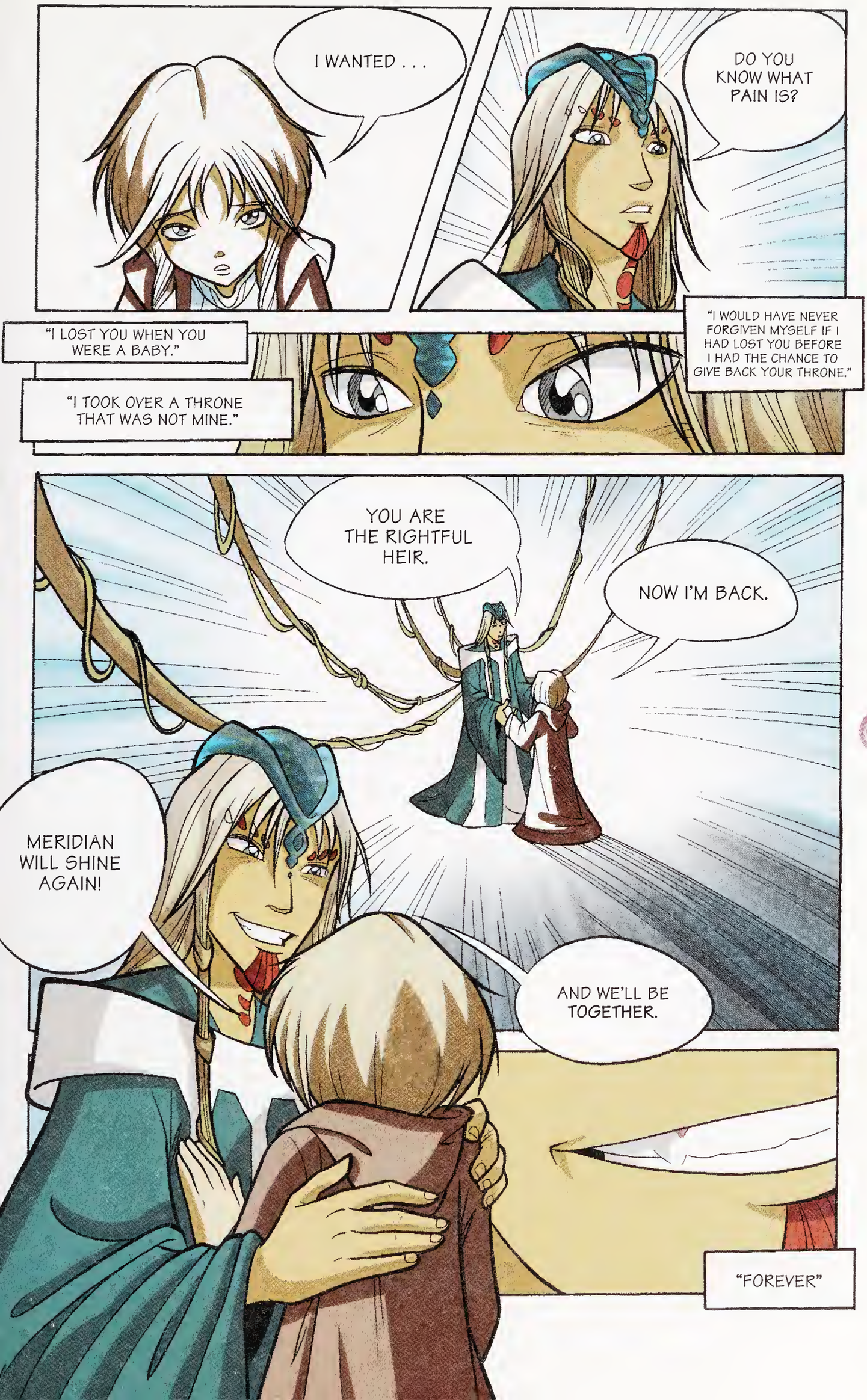
AND HERE I WAS THINKING CORNELIA WAS COLD AND RATIONAL!
BUT SHE IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE. AH, LOOOOOVE!


SOMEONE IS GLAD SHE CAME TO MERIDIAN TO LOOK FOR ELYON!

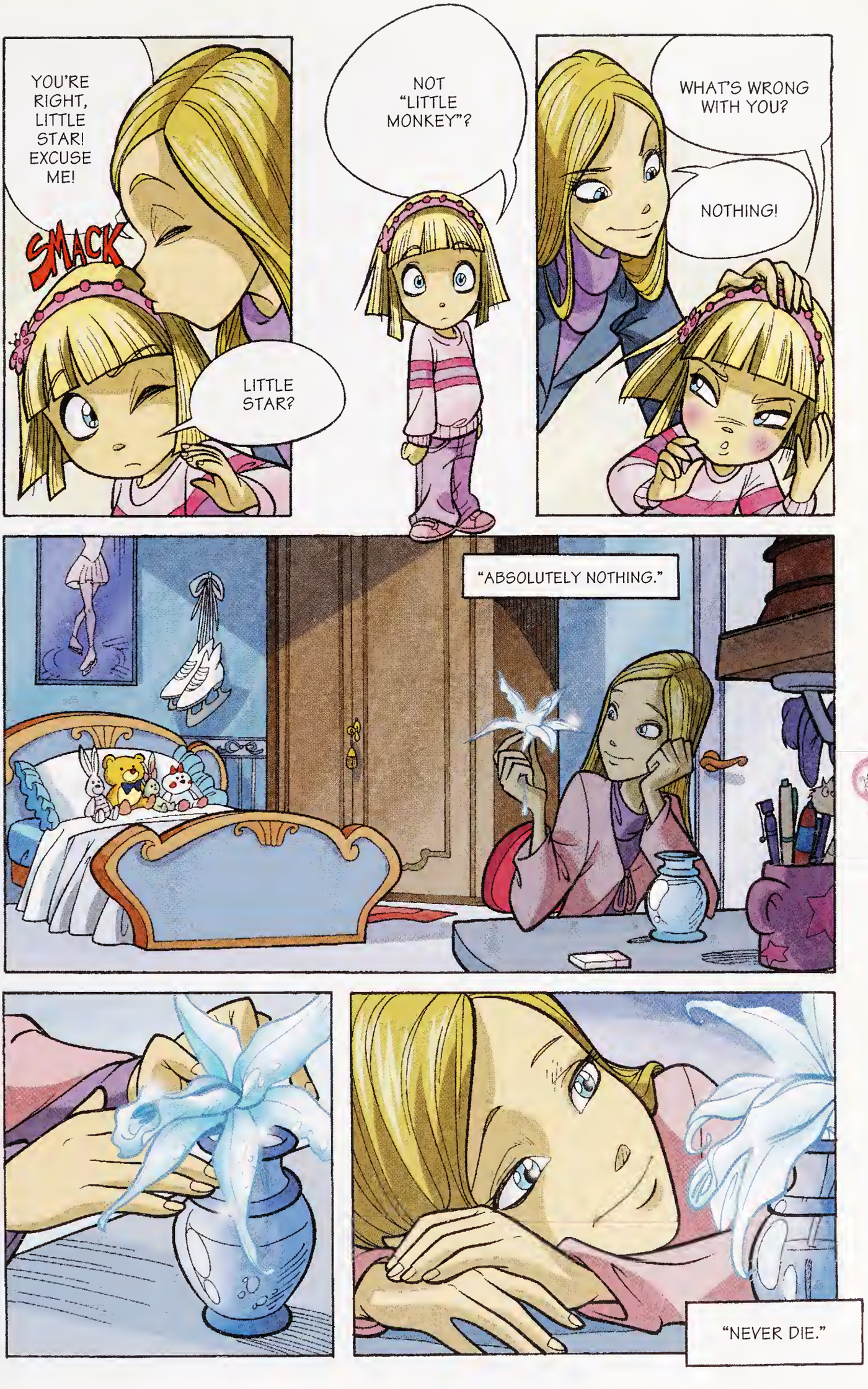


UM . . . NOW WE CAN GO.
I DON'T THINK WE CAN GO WITHOUT SOME INFORMATION!
I THINK YOU SHOULD TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT WE JUST SAW!


COME IN, PRINCESS! YOUR BROTHER IS WAITING FOR YOU!
MY BELOVED SISTER!
PHOBOS . . .
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MOMENT FOR A LONG TIME.

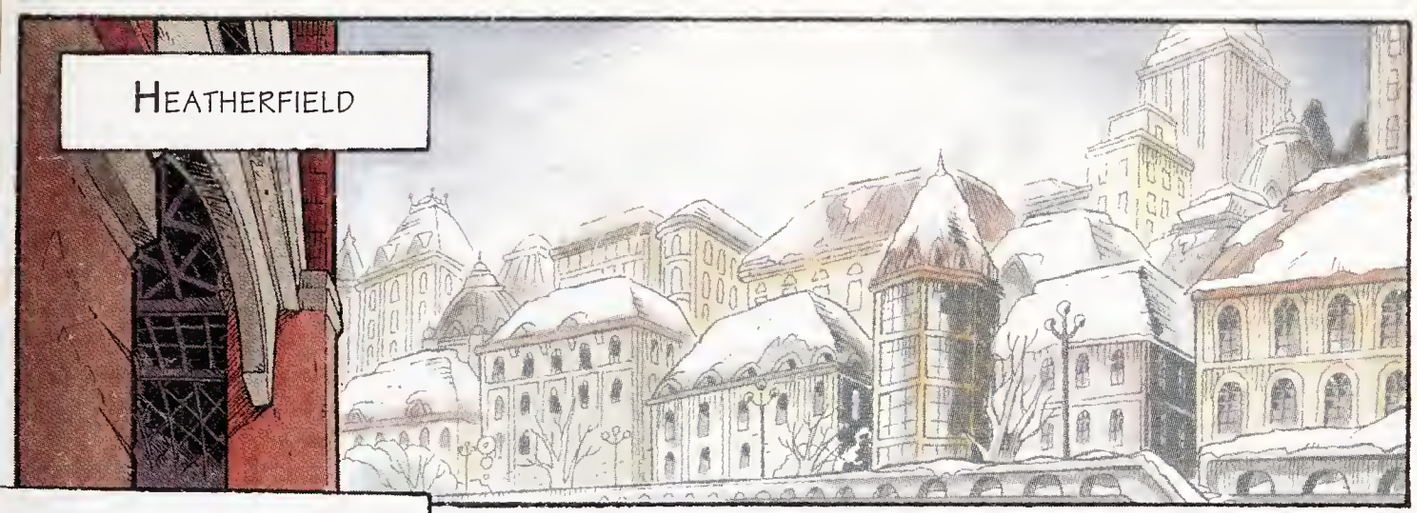

I WANTED . . .
DO YOU KNOW WHAT PAIN IS?
"I LOST YOU WHEN YOU WERE A BABY."
"I TOOK OVER A THRONE THAT WAS NOT MINE."
"I WOULD HAVE NEVER FORGIVEN MYSELF IF I HAD LOST YOU BEFORE I HAD THE CHANCE TO GIVE BACK YOUR THRONE."
YOU ARE THE RIGHTFUL HEIR.
NOW I'M BACK.
MERIDIAN WILL SHINE AGAIN!
AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER.
"FOREVER"

HEATHERFIELD . . .
A NORMAL NIGHT OF WINTER . . .
IT'S A PITY WE HAD TO LEAVE THAT PALACE IN METAMOOR! IT WASN'T SO BAD.
DID YOU WANT TO RENT IT FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL PARTY?
I'M GOING TO RUN INSIDE.
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
HEY! IT'S NOT WORTH THE EFFORT!
SHE CAN'T ESCAPE FROM US FOREVER!
SOONER OR LATER, SHE'LL HAVE TO TELL US EVERYTHING!
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE!
YOU'RE LATE. I HAVEN'T EATEN YET, AND I'M HUNGRY.
DINNER WILL BE READY IN FIVE MINUTES!

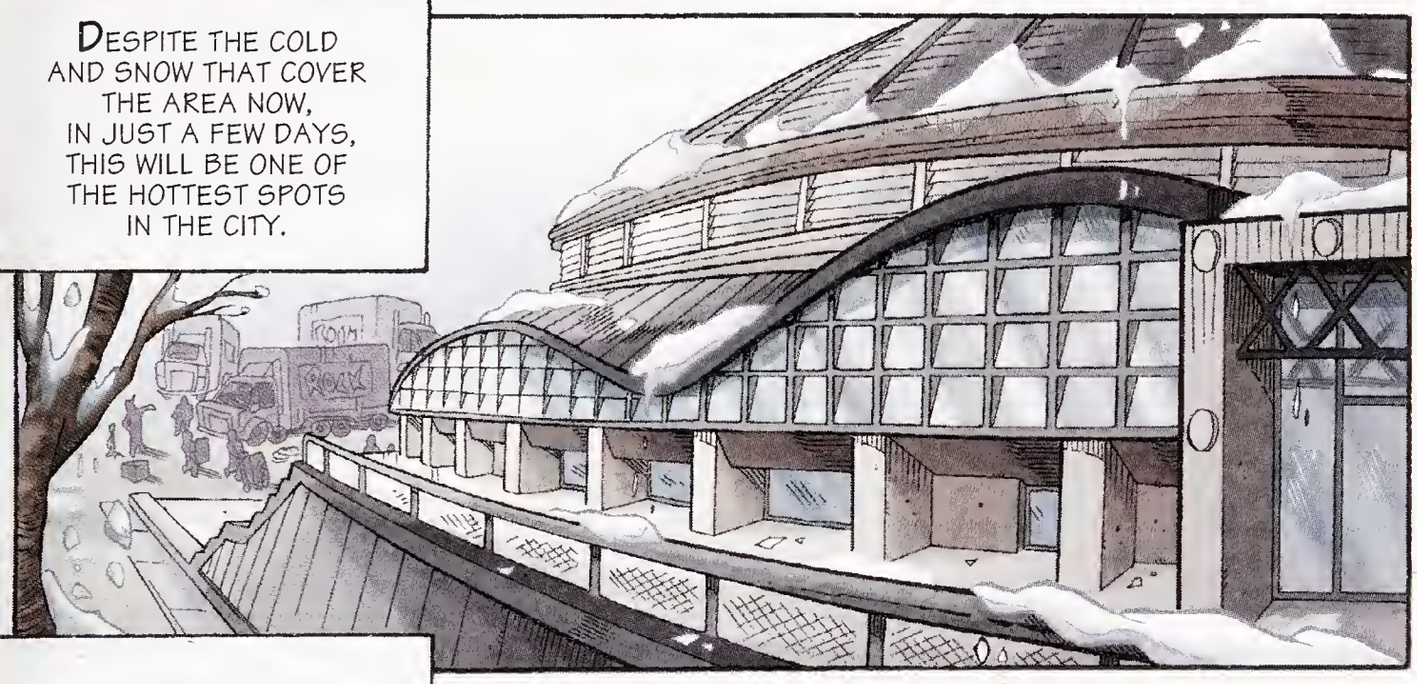

YOU'RE RIGHT, LITTLE STAR! EXCUSE ME!
SMACK
LITTLE STAR?
NOT "LITTLE MONKEY"?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
NOTHING!
"ABSOLUTELY NOTHING."
"NEVER DIE."

THERE IS STILL A PROBLEM TO RESOLVE.
Olsen's
I'M WILL! WILL VANDOM!
I'M NOT JACKIE! I WON'T CHANGE FOR MATT OR FOR ANYONE ELSE!
THERE HE IS! IT'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
HELLO, WILL!
HELLO! I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
A GIRL CAME OVER AND TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU!
?!
UM . . .
NOW HE'S GOING TO TELL ME THAT THEY'VE BEEN ENGAGED FOR YEARS! I'M SURE OF IT!

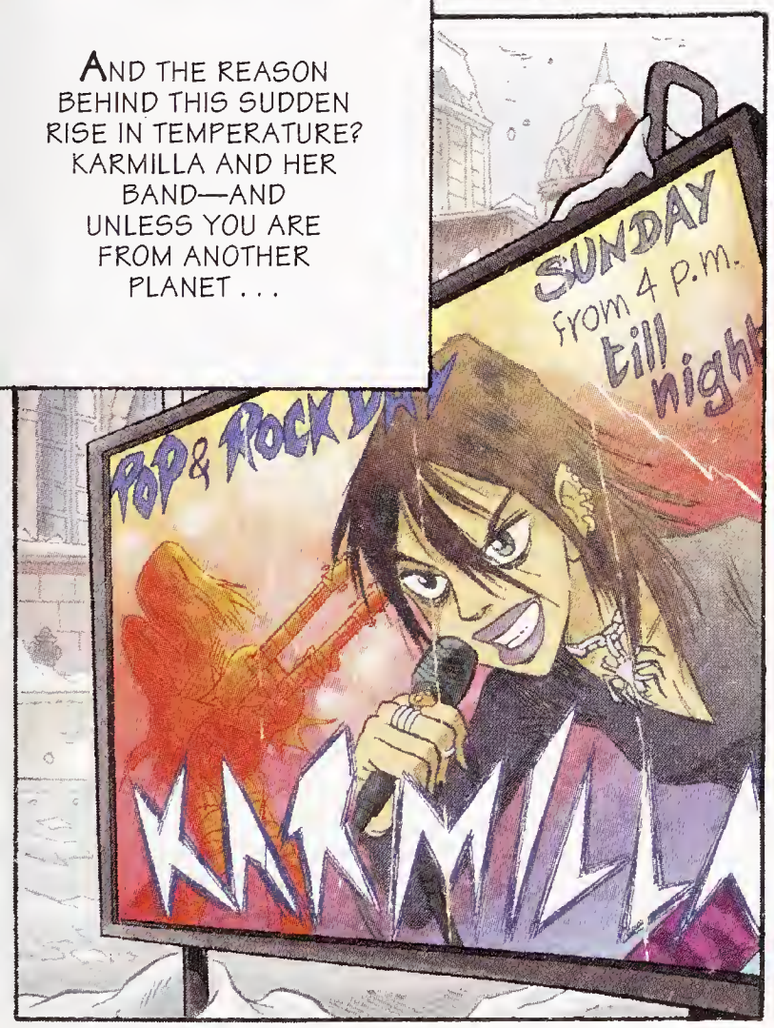
UGH! SHE ALWAYS TREATS ME LIKE A LITTLE BOY!
WHEN SHE BROUGHT HOME THE PUPPY, SHE EVEN TOLD ME THAT I LOOK LIKE HER BABY BROTHER!
UM . . . WHICH PUPPY?
HER SAINT BERNARD PUPPY! MY GRANDFATHER CAN'T TAKE CARE OF IT IN THE SHOP, BECAUSE IT'S TOO BIG.
OH! I UNDERSTAND.
HE ISN'T THE PUPPY SHE WANTS TO EMBRACE!
CONTROL YOURSELF, OR HE'LL FIND OUT!
WELL . . . NEVER LOSE YOUR HEAD OVER SOMEONE OLDER THAN YOU!
YES! I KNOW!
MAY I WALK YOU HOME?
" IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE. . . ."



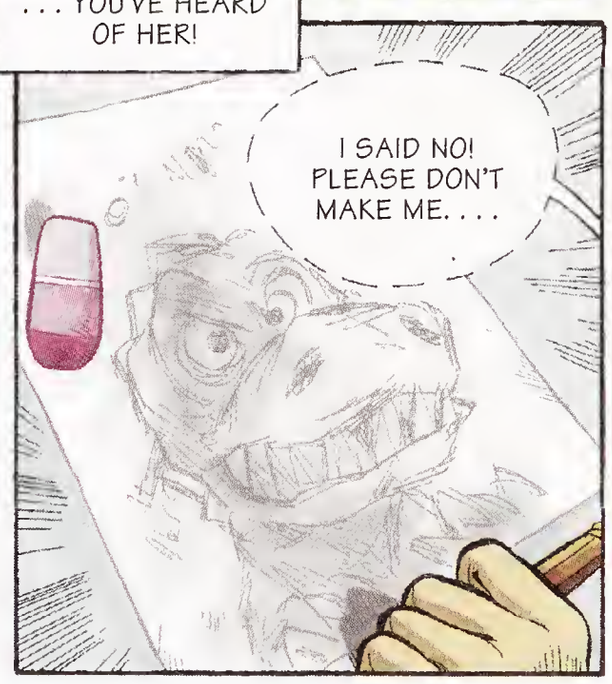
DESPITE THE COLD AND SNOW THAT COVER THE AREA NOW, IN JUST A FEW DAYS, THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE HOTTEST SPOTS IN THE CITY.



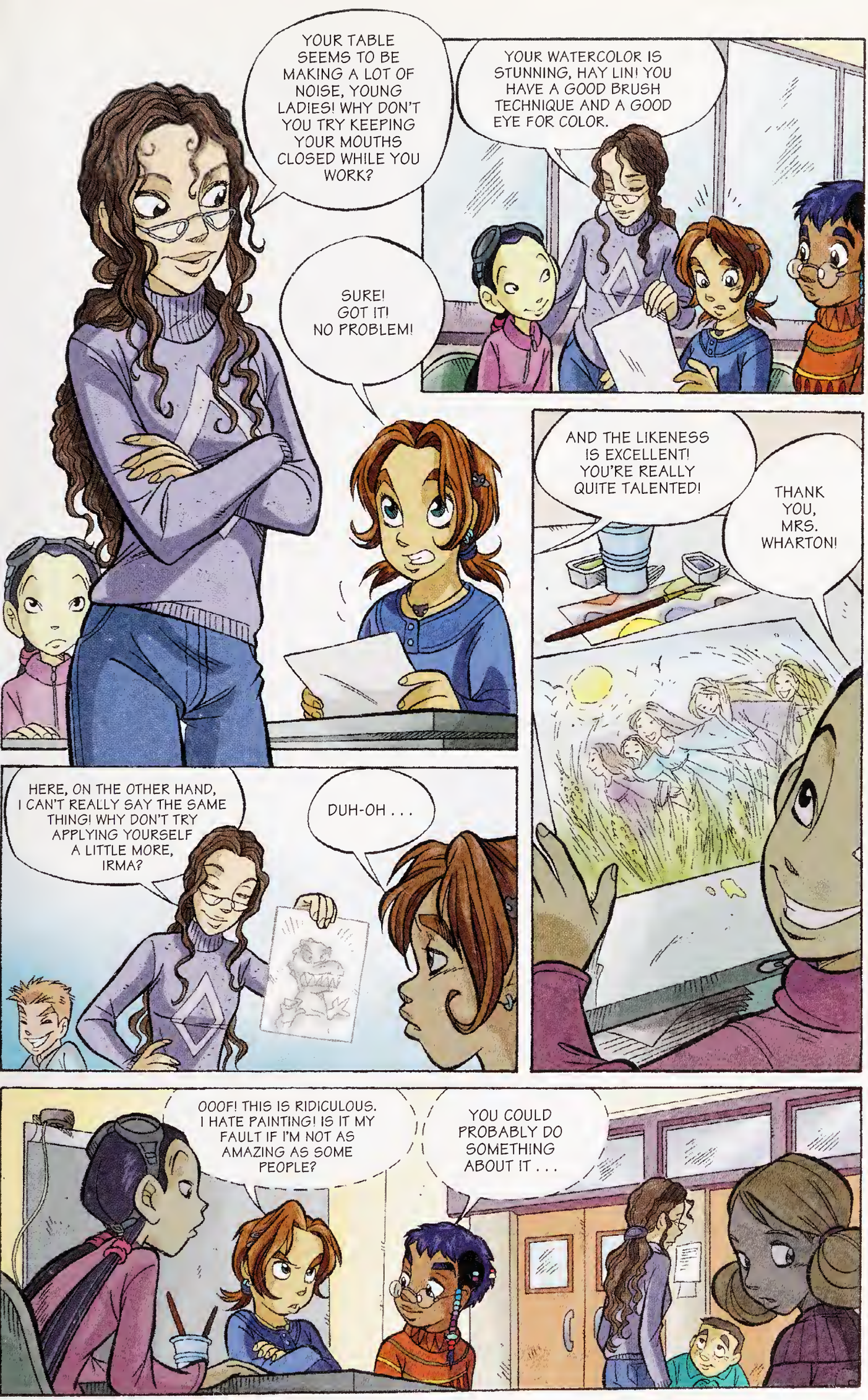
AND THE REASON BEHIND THIS SUDDEN RISE IN TEMPERATURE? KARMILLA AND HER BAND—AND UNLESS YOU ARE FROM ANOTHER PLANET . . .



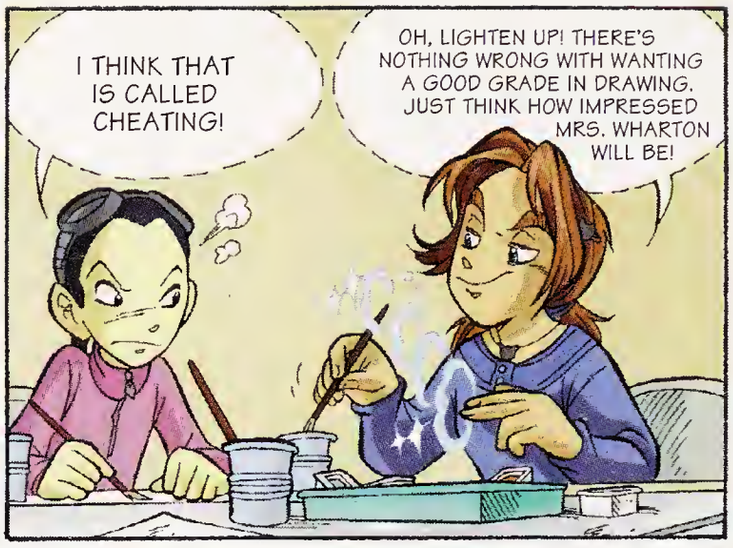
. . . YOU'VE HEARD OF HER!

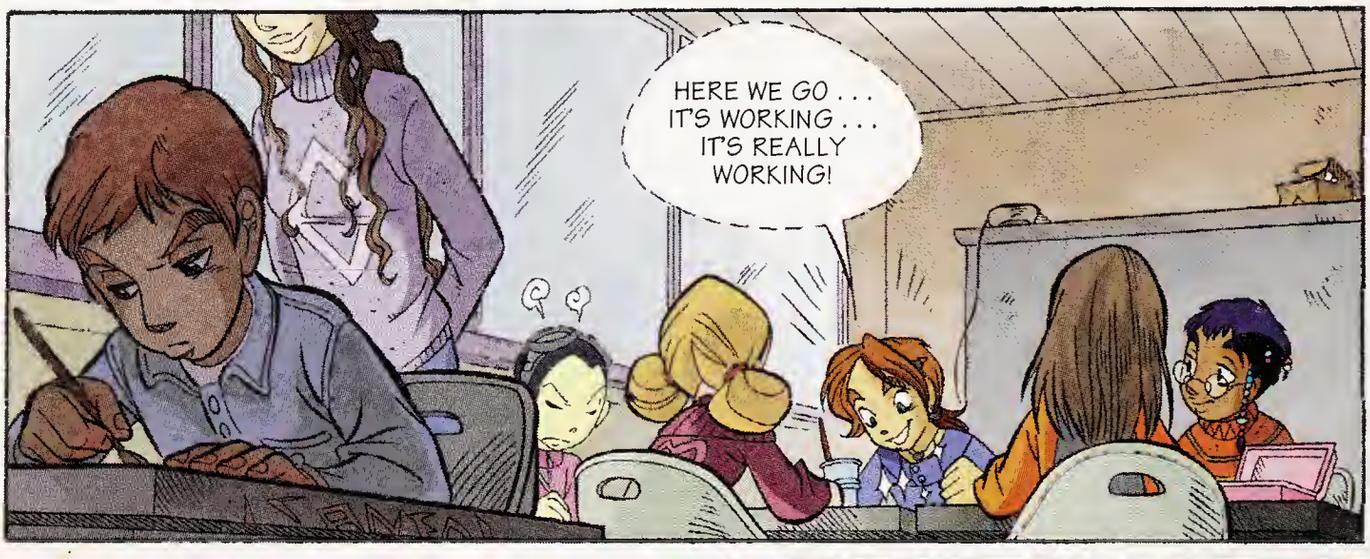


. . . JUST WAIT ONE SECOND. I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING AS SOON AS CLASS IS OVER!
BUT THIS IS TORTURE! YOU SAID YOU HAVE A SURPRISE AND NOW YOU WON'T TELL US—THAT'S JUST CRUEL!
OH, ALL RIGHT, I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU SUFFER. THE KARMILLA CONCERT IS THIS SUNDAY! I KNOW THE SHOW HAS BEEN SOLD OUT FOR A LONG TIME . . .
. . . BUT THANKS TO A CERTAIN SPECIAL PERSON'S AMAZING FATHER, WE'VE GOT TICKETS!
WOW! CORNELIA'S DAD MUST HAVE SOME GREAT CONNECTIONS.
HA-HA! VERY FUNNY, TARANEE! IT WILL BE A SHAME TO LEAVE YOU AT HOME!
WHAT? CAN'T YOU TAKE A JOKE?
WHATEVER! THE POINT IS, MY DAD IS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY FOR THE CONCERT, AND HE HAS PROMISED TO FIND US A WAY BACKSTAGE!
GREAT! SO THAT MEANS . . .
. . . IT MEANS . . . YOU YOUNG LADIES ARE TALKING TOO MUCH AND DRAWING TOO LITTLE!

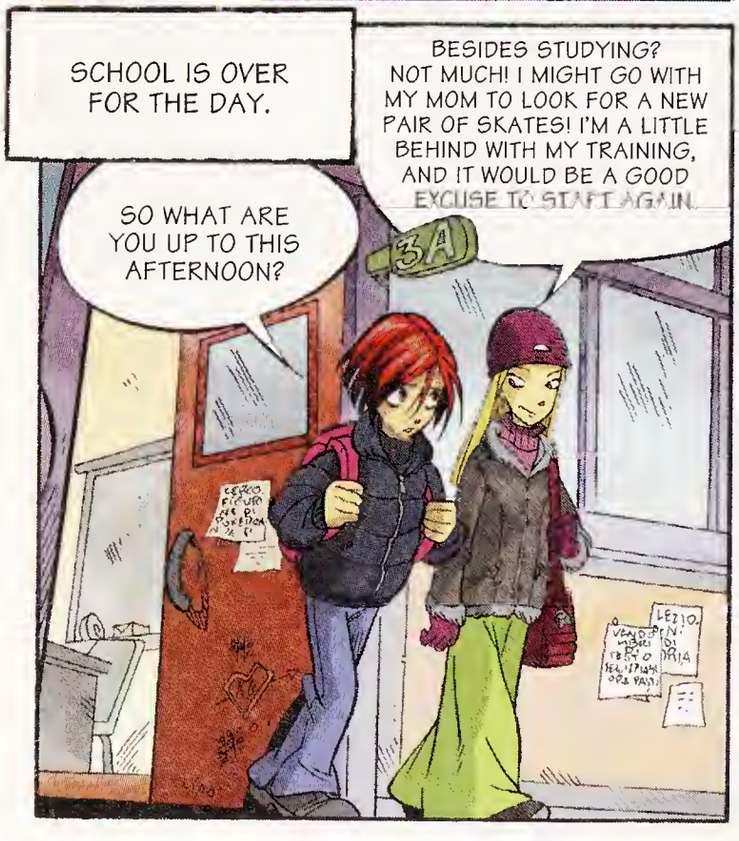

YOUR TABLE SEEMS TO BE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE, YOUNG LADIES! WHY DON'T YOU TRY KEEPING YOUR MOUTHS CLOSED WHILE YOU WORK?
YOUR WATERCOLOR IS STUNNING, HAY LIN! YOU HAVE A GOOD BRUSH TECHNIQUE AND A GOOD EYE FOR COLOR.
SURE! GOT IT! NO PROBLEM!
AND THE LIKENESS IS EXCELLENT! YOU'RE REALLY QUITE TALENTED!
THANK YOU, MRS. WHARTON!
HERE, ON THE OTHER HAND, I CAN'T REALLY SAY THE SAME THING! WHY DON'T TRY APPLYING YOURSELF A LITTLE MORE, IRMA?
DUH-OH . . .
OOOF! THIS IS RIDICULOUS. I HATE PAINTING! IS IT MY FAULT IF I'M NOT AS AMAZING AS SOME PEOPLE?
YOU COULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT . . .

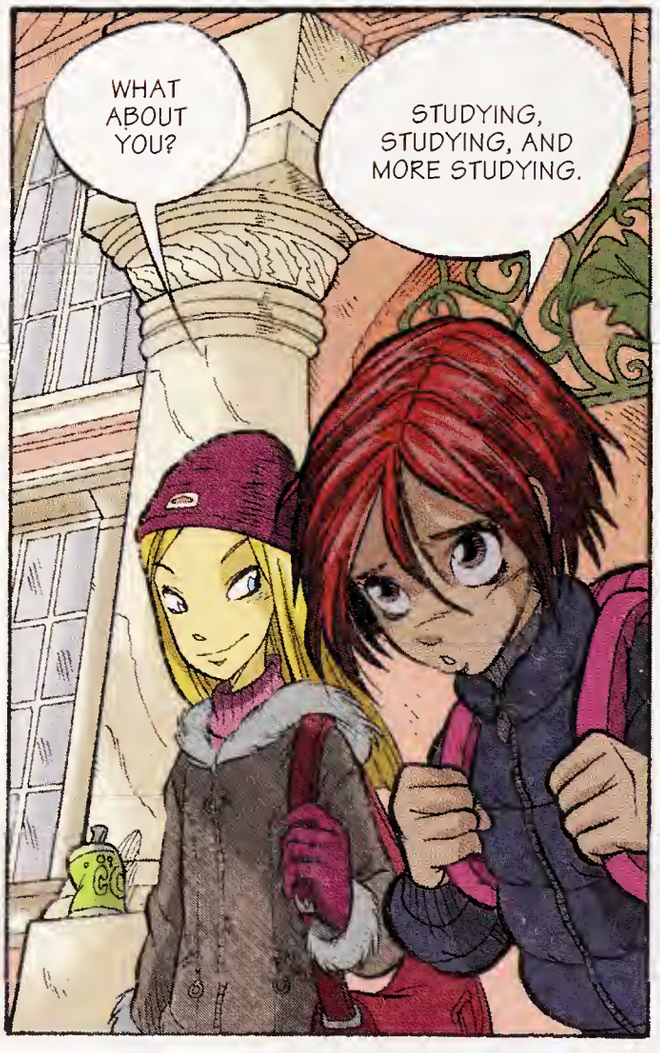
AFTER ALL, WE'RE WORKING WITH WATERCOLORS. AND SINCE YOU DO CONTROL THE POWER OF WATER . . . IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOU!
GOOD POINT, TARANEE!

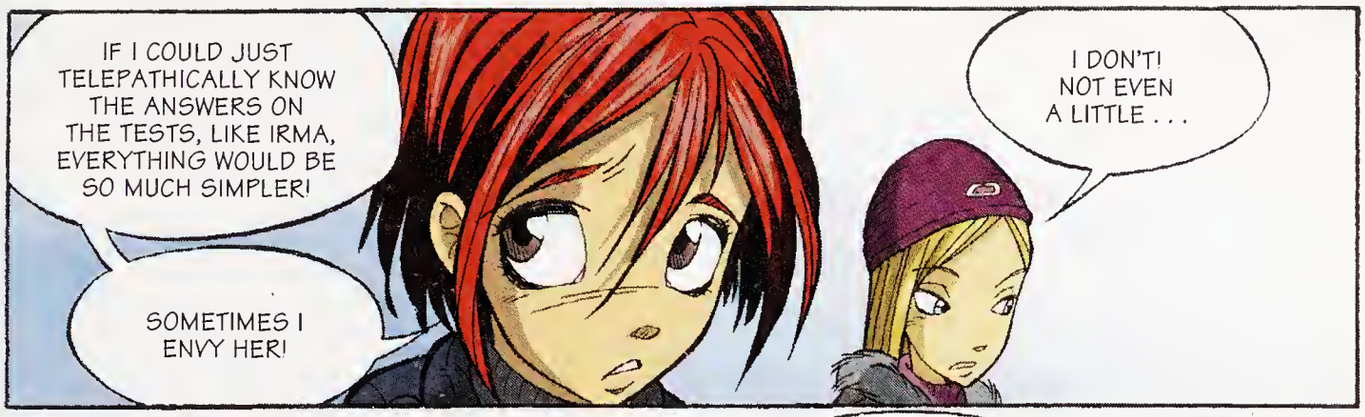

I THINK THAT IS CALLED CHEATING!
OH, LIGHTEN UP! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH WANTING A GOOD GRADE IN DRAWING. JUST THINK HOW IMPRESSED MRS. WHARTON WILL BE!


HERE WE GO . . . IT'S WORKING . . . IT'S REALLY WORKING!

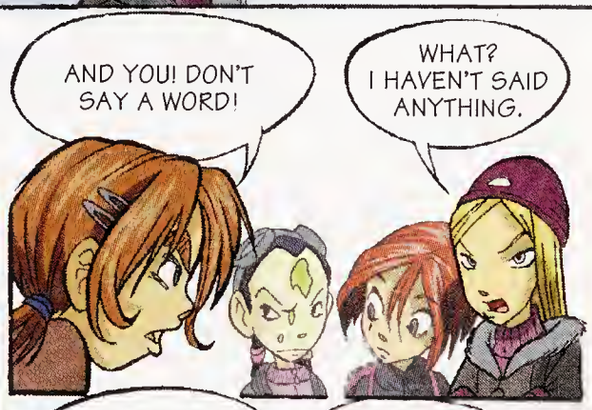
DRAWING

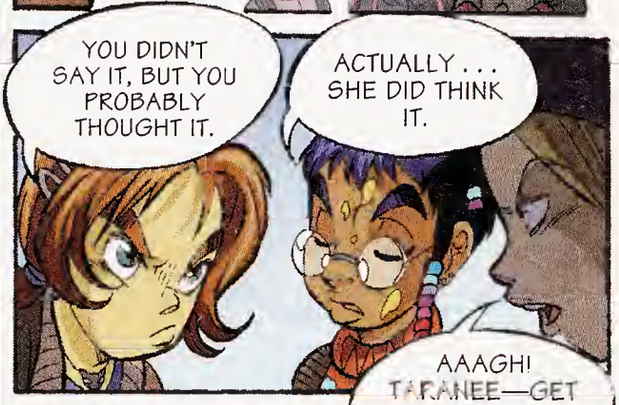

SCHOOL IS OVER FOR THE DAY.
BESIDES STUDYING? NOT MUCH! I MIGHT GO WITH MY MOM TO LOOK FOR A NEW PAIR OF SKATES! I'M A LITTLE BEHIND WITH MY TRAINING, AND IT WOULD BE A GOOD EXCUSE TO START AGAIN.
SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS AFTERNOON?
3A


WHAT ABOUT YOU?
STUDYING, STUDYING, AND MORE STUDYING.


IF I COULD JUST TELEPATHICALLY KNOW THE ANSWERS ON THE TESTS, LIKE IRMA, EVERYTHING WOULD BE SO MUCH SIMPLER!
SOMETIMES I ENVY HER!
I DON'T! NOT EVEN A LITTLE . . .

. . . AND I REALLY DON'T RIGHT NOW!
OH, MY GOSH! WHAT HAPPENED?
HOLD ON, YOU GUYS! DON'T BE LIKE THIS! THE SITUATION GOT A LITTLE OUT OF CONTROL. BUT EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES!


AND YOU! DON'T SAY A WORD!
WHAT? I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING.

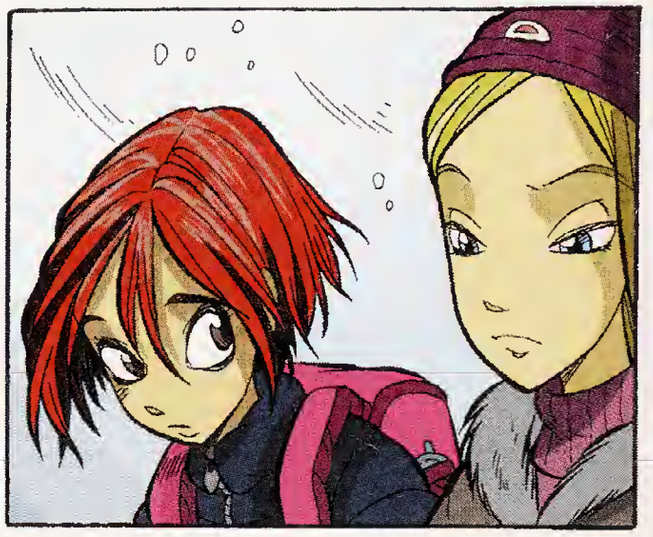

YOU DIDN'T SAY IT, BUT YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT IT.
ACTUALLY . . . SHE DID THINK IT.

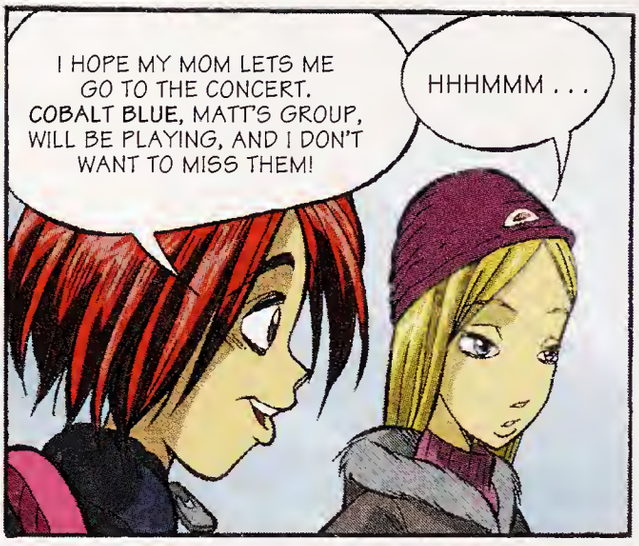
AAAGH! TARANEE—GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
UM . . . COULD SOMEONE FILL ME IN ON WHAT HAPPENED?
THE "ARTIST" HERE WANTED TO PLAY WITH PAINT, AND AS A RESULT—WE LOOK LIKE THIS!

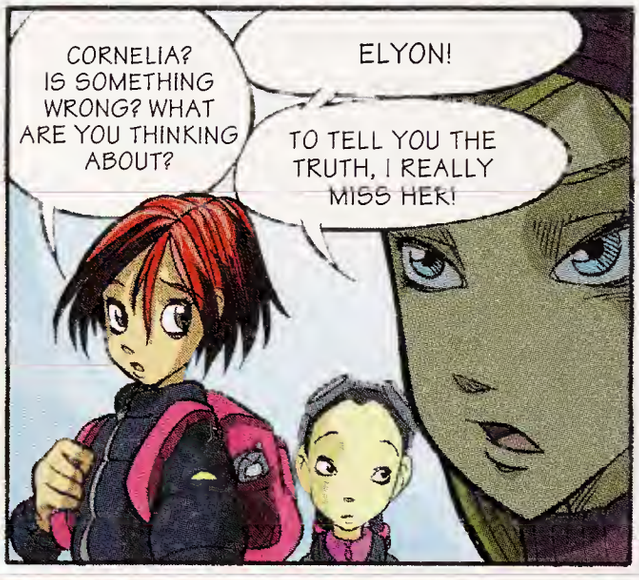
SPEAKING OF THE CONCERT, IS THERE ANY NEWS?
THE FATHER OF OUR CRAZY PAINTER IS TAKING CARE OF SECURITY AT THE STADIUM! WE'LL SEE THE CONCERT FROM BACKSTAGE!

I WAS GOING TO WEAR THIS ON SUNDAY—BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT WON'T BE HAPPENING!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S REASON ENOUGH TO FORGIVE HER?

GOOD! NOW WE'RE FRIENDS AGAIN.
WY 021 N

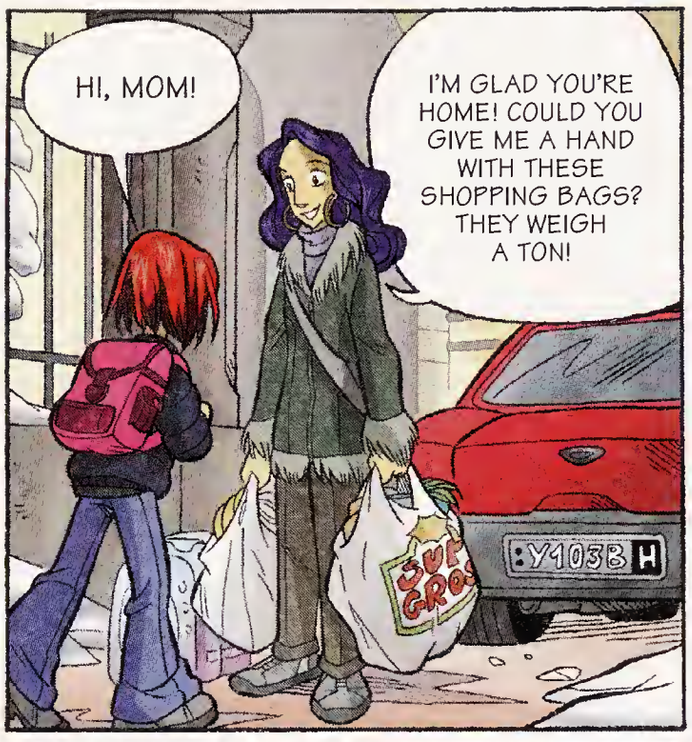


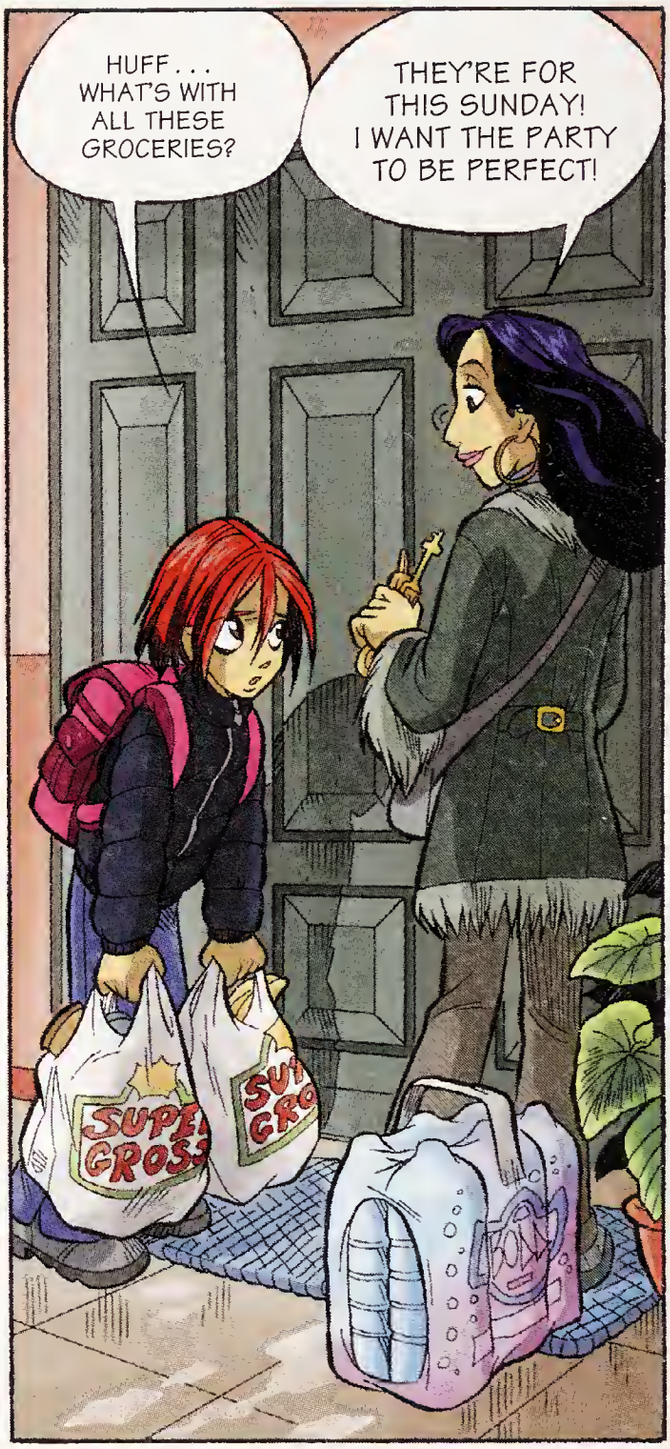

I HOPE MY MOM LETS ME GO TO THE CONCERT. COBALT BLUE, MATT'S GROUP, WILL BE PLAYING, AND I DON'T WANT TO MISS THEM!
HHHMMM . . .


CORNELIA? IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
ELYON!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REALLY MISS HER!

NOT AGAIN! DON'T START! WE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT THIS!
NOT ENOUGH! I THINK WE NEED TO GIVE HER ANOTHER CHANCE!

REMEMBER WHAT SHE DID TO TARANEE? ALL THOSE TRAPS SHE SET FOR US. SHE IS THE ENEMY NOW, CORNELIA! YOU CAN'T FORGET THAT . . .
BUT SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND! SHE HELPED ME WHEN I WAS IN MERIDIAN. YOU DON'T KNOW HER LIKE I DO.
WELL, I'M GOING THIS WAY . . .
I'LL COME WITH YOU.
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM THIS WAY—WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT!
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT, WILL?
IT'S HARD TO SAY, CORNELIA. BUT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN . . .
I'M POSITIVE THAT ELYON GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING BEYOND HER CONTROL—MAYBE SHE JUST NEEDS OUR HELP!
IT'S NOT THE SAME THING, AND YOU KNOW IT . . .
WHY CAN'T WE GIVE HER THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AND FORGIVE HER? YOU JUST FORGAVE IRMA!
CAN YOU JUST PROMISE TO THINK ABOUT IT?
I PROMISE! SEE YOU LATER, CORNELIA!
WILL!

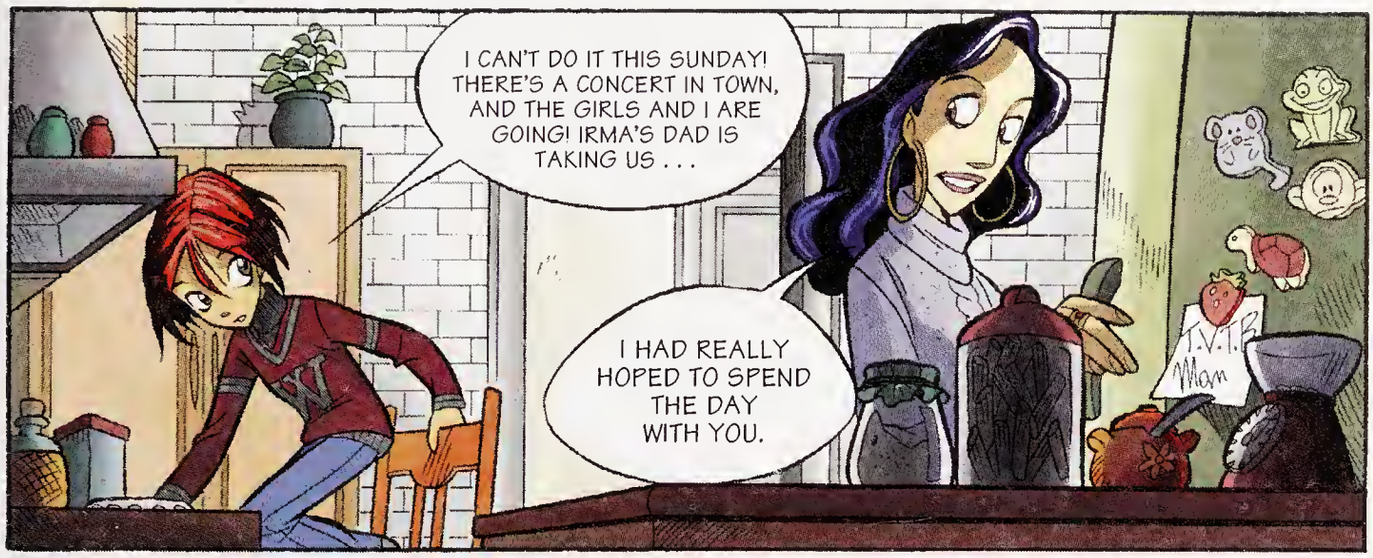

HI, MOM!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME! COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND WITH THESE SHOPPING BAGS? THEY WEIGH A TON!
Y103B H


HUFF . . . WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE GROCERIES?
THEY'RE FOR THIS SUNDAY! I WANT THE PARTY TO BE PERFECT!

THE . . . PARTY?
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT? IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!

OF COURSE I DIDN'T FORGET! IT'S . . . IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE HAVING A PARTY . . .
IT'S A PRIVATE LUNCH PARTY, ACTUALLY, JUST FOR THE TWO OF US! ISN'T THAT GREAT?

AND THEN, AFTERWARDS, WE'LL TAKE A TRIP TO ROSEVILLE! ITS BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE DID ANYTHING FUN LIKE THAT!
IT'S A FANTASTIC IDEA, MOM! THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE PROBLEM . . .
MILK


I CAN'T DO IT THIS SUNDAY! THERE'S A CONCERT IN TOWN, AND THE GIRLS AND I ARE GOING! IRMA'S DAD IS TAKING US . . .
I HAD REALLY HOPED TO SPEND THE DAY WITH YOU.
T.V.T. Man

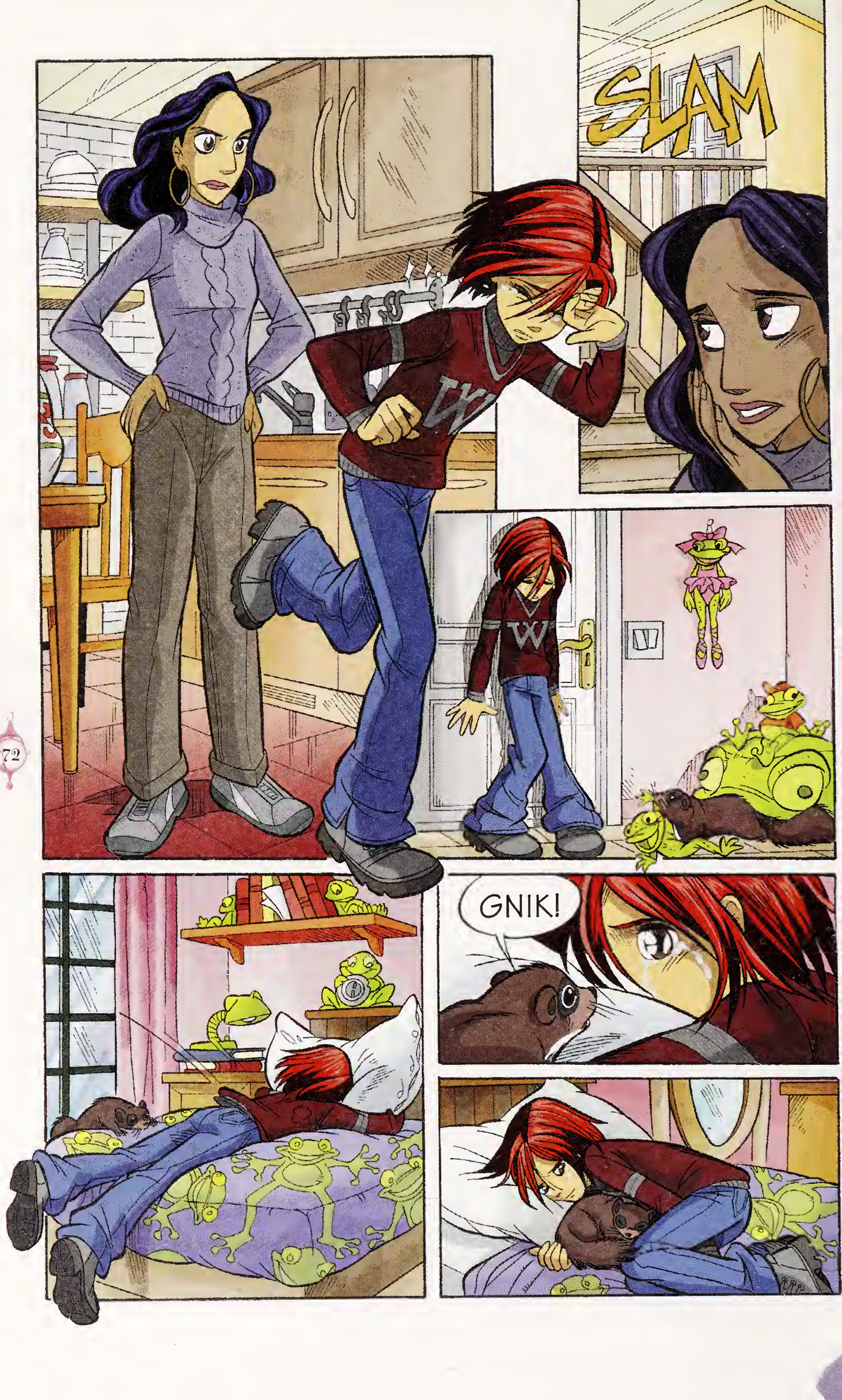
WE CAN ALWAYS GO TO ROSEVILLE NEXT WEEKEND . . .
NEXT WEEKEND IT WON'T BE MY BIRTHDAY ANYMORE! I'M SORRY, WILL . . .

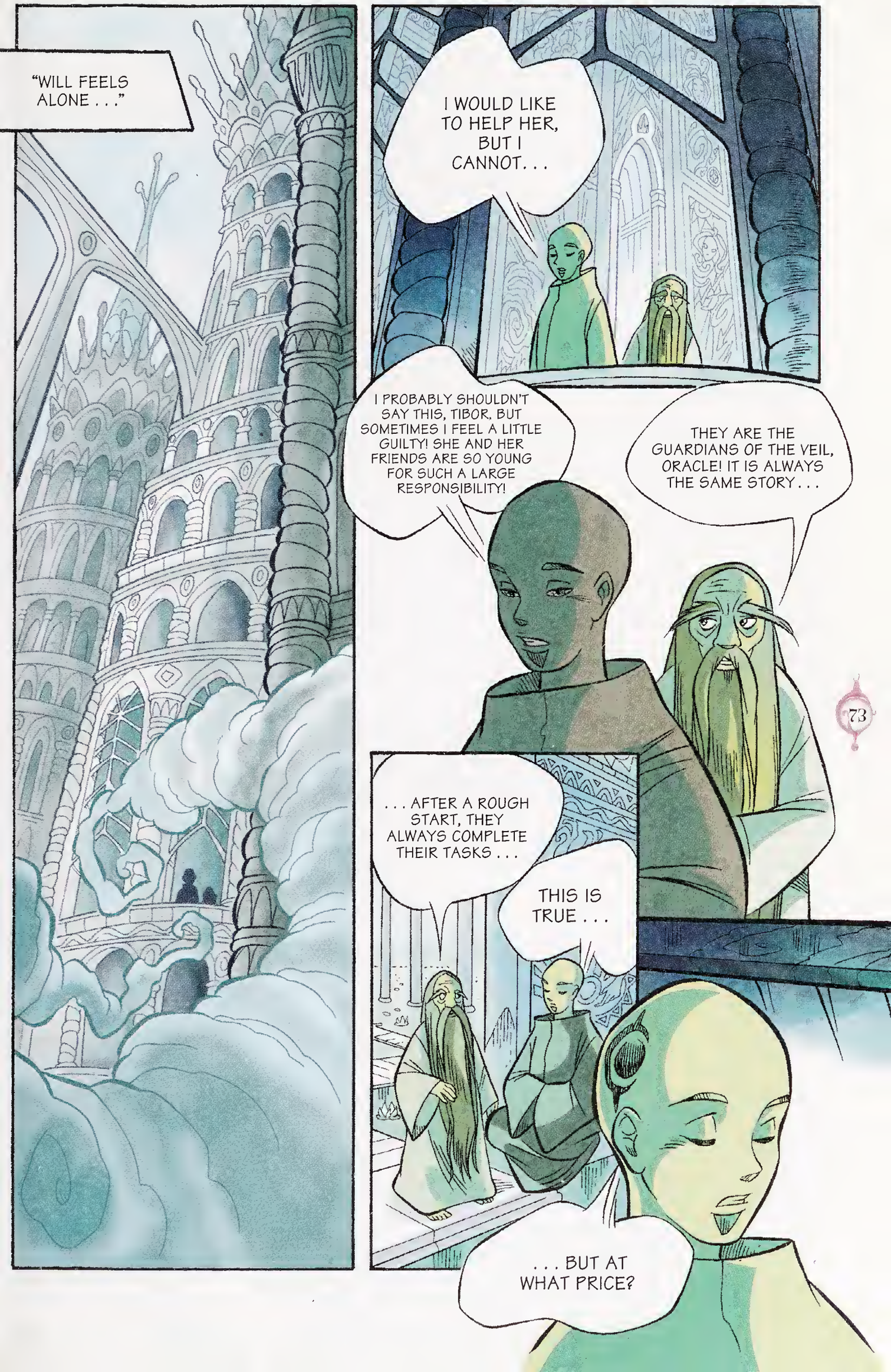
. . . BUT WE NEVER SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE. YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME ALONE OR WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE NEVER HERE!

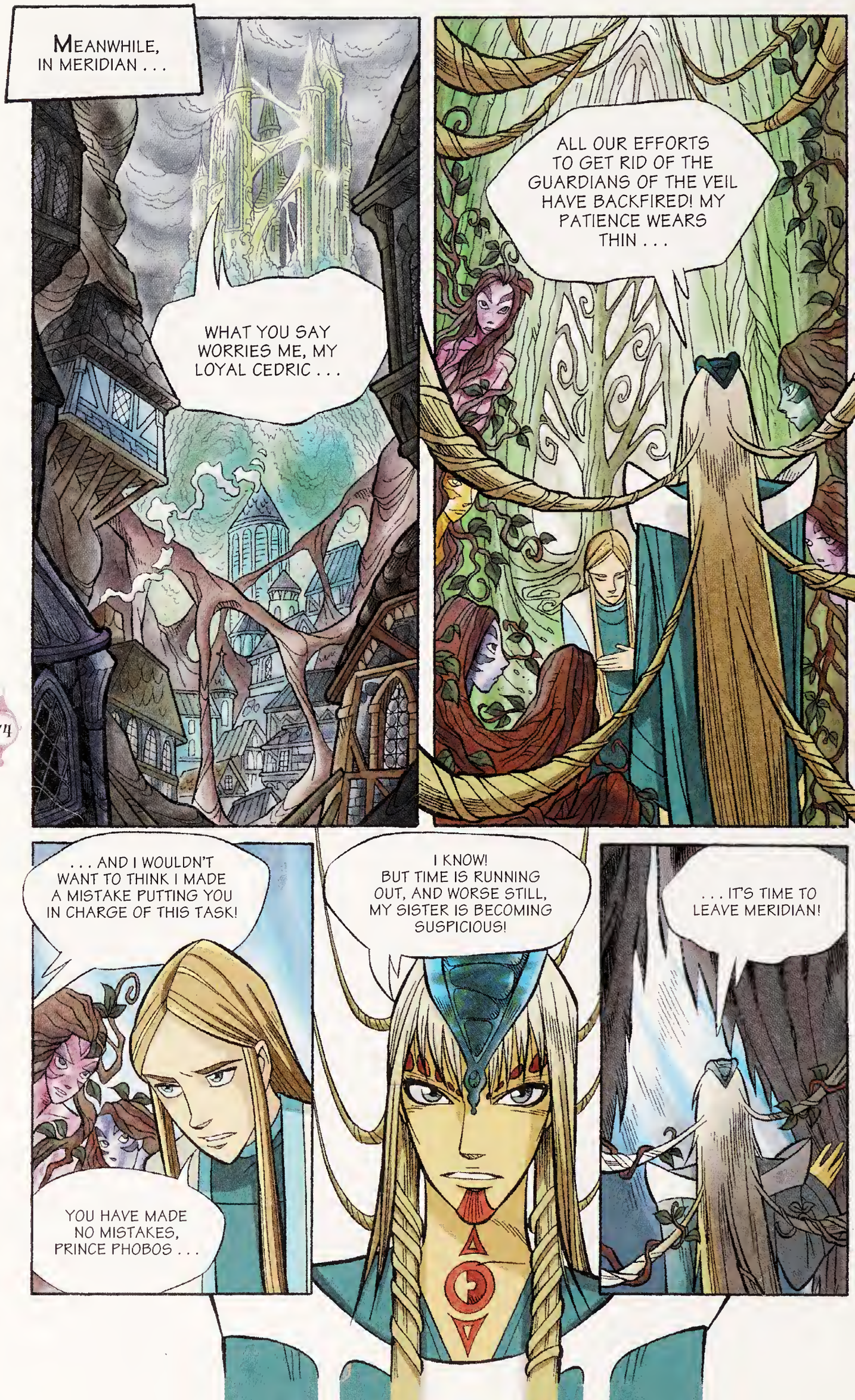
I HAVE TO WORK, WILL! YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO FORGET THAT!
I KNOW! BUT YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO FIND TIME FOR MR. COLLINS, DON'T YOU?

DON'T USE THAT TONE OF VOICE WITH ME! KEEP IT UP AND THIS SUNDAY'S PLANS ARE GOING TO LOOK A LOT DIFFERENT . . .

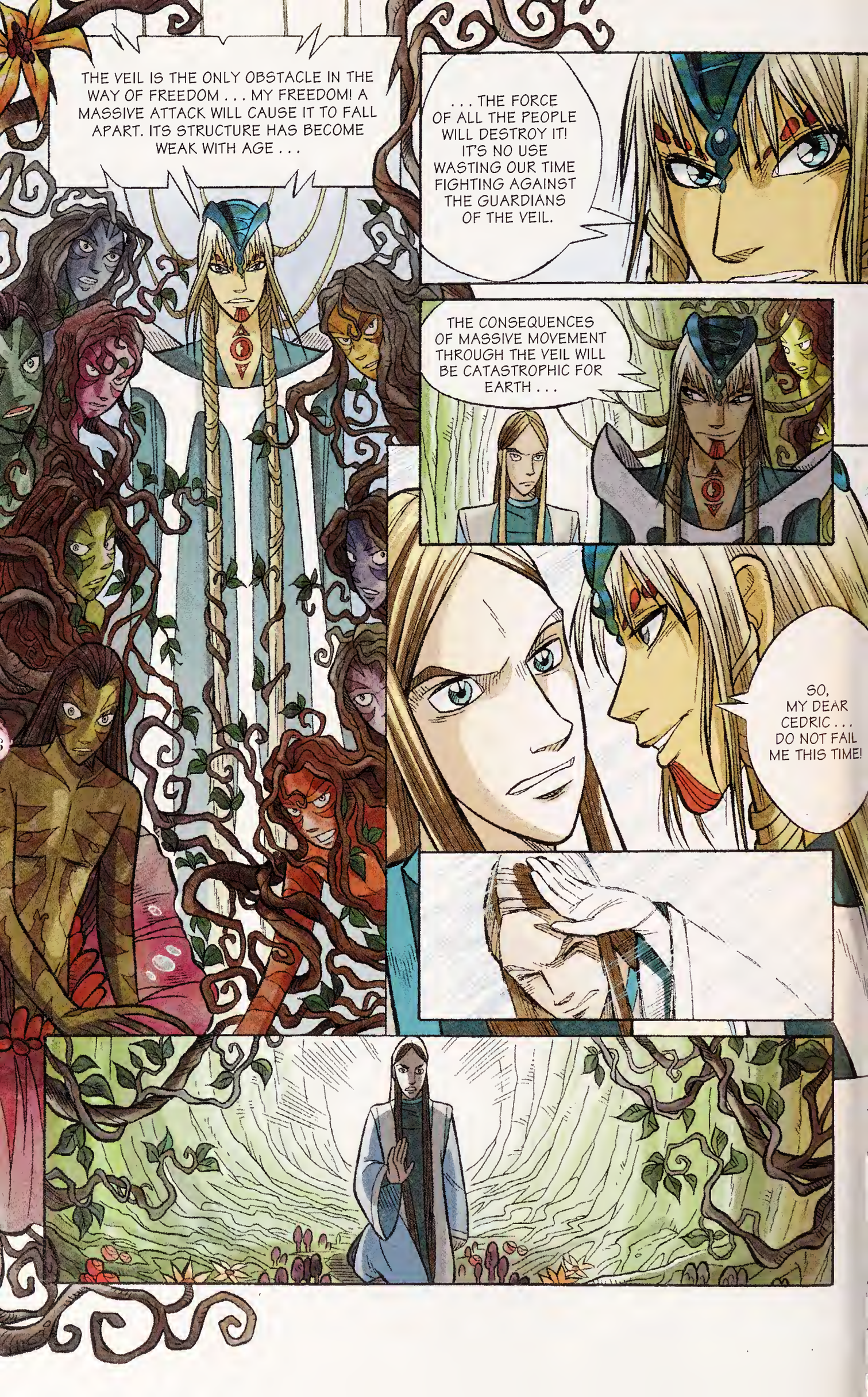
. . . YOU WON'T BE GOING TO THE CONCERT, AND I WON'T BE GIVING ANY BIRTHDAY PARTY! WE'LL BOTH STAY AT HOME LIKE TWO FOOLS. NOW, THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER!

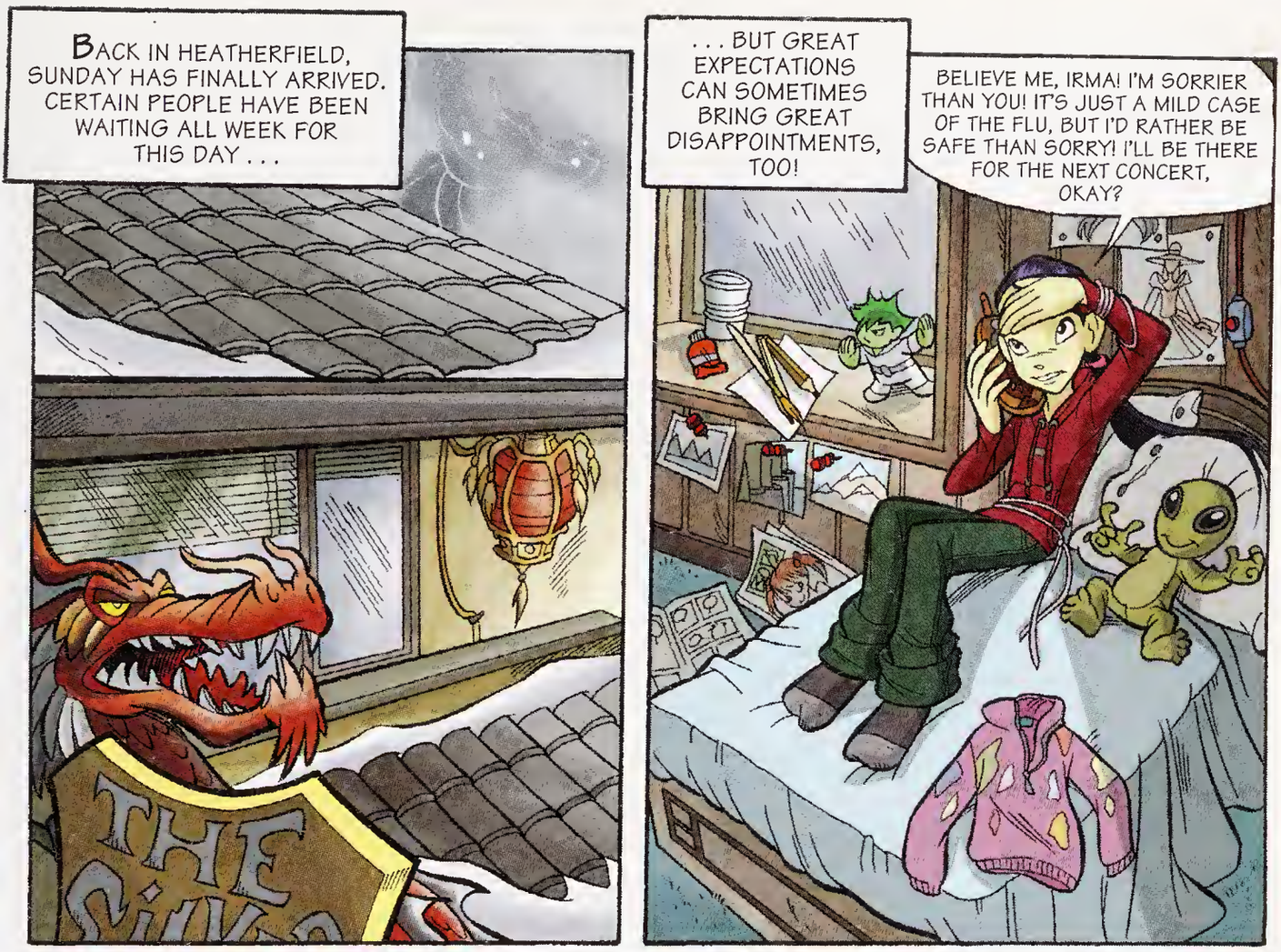

SLAM
GNIK!

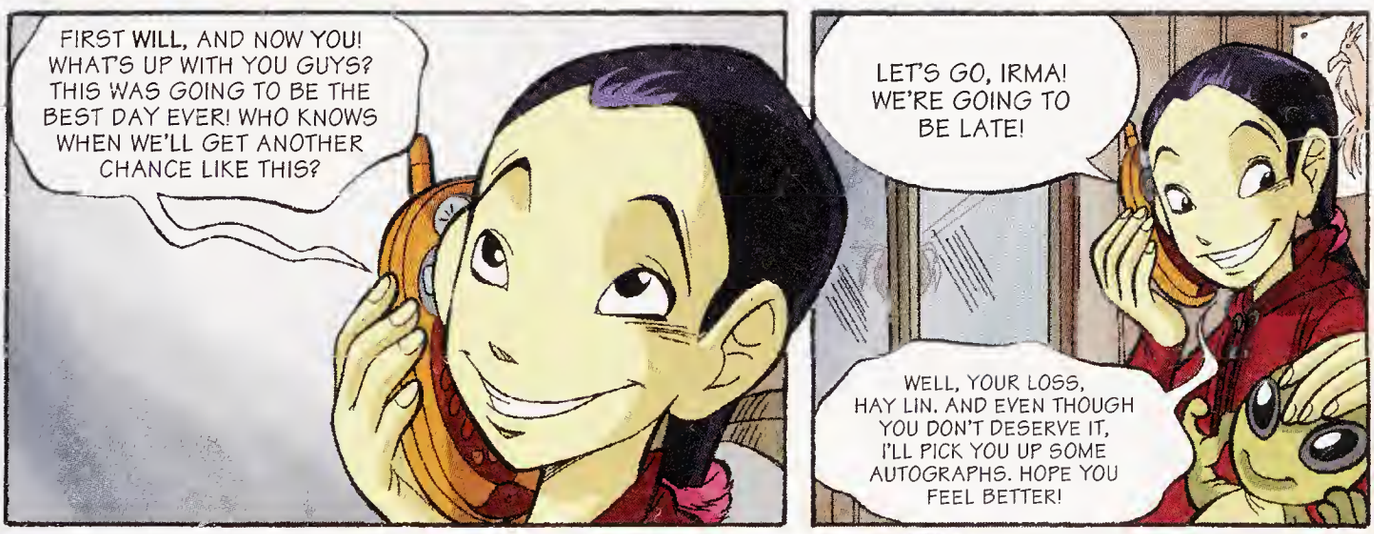

"WILL FEELS ALONE . . ."
I WOULD LIKE TO HELP HER, BUT I CANNOT. . .
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, TIBOR, BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY! SHE AND HER FRIENDS ARE SO YOUNG FOR SUCH A LARGE RESPONSIBILITY!
THEY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL, ORACLE! IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME STORY . . .
. . . AFTER A ROUGH START, THEY ALWAYS COMPLETE THEIR TASKS . . .
THIS IS TRUE . . .
. . . BUT AT WHAT PRICE?

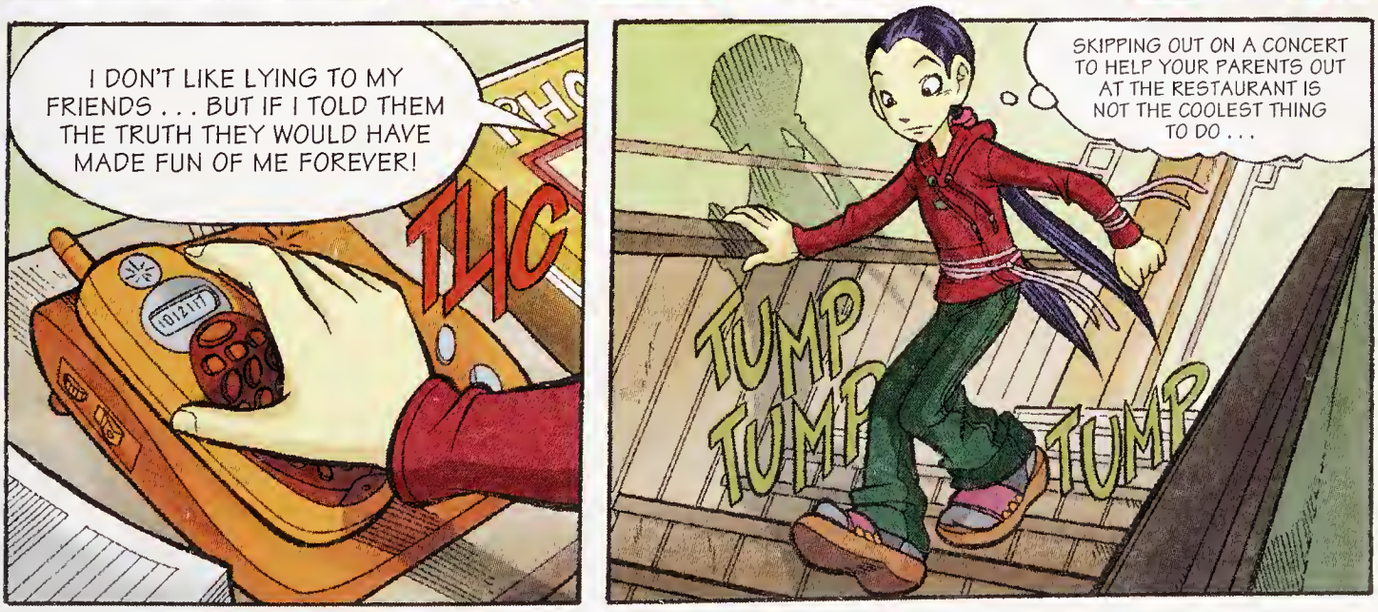

MEANWHILE, IN MERIDIAN . . .
WHAT YOU SAY WORRIES ME, MY LOYAL CEDRIC . . .
ALL OUR EFFORTS TO GET RID OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL HAVE BACKFIRED! MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN . . .
. . . AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO THINK I MADE A MISTAKE PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF THIS TASK!
YOU HAVE MADE NO MISTAKES, PRINCE PHOBOS . . .
I KNOW! BUT TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AND WORSE STILL, MY SISTER IS BECOMING SUSPICIOUS!
. . . IT'S TIME TO LEAVE MERIDIAN!

SEE, CEDRIC . . . MERIDIAN IS BREAKING DOWN! I'VE ABSORBED ALL ITS ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES . . .
. . . THE PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO FADE UNDER THE STRAIN OF POVERTY AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES . . .
. . . IT'S NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO TRY TO CALM THEIR FRUSTRATIONS . . . WHICH IS WHY MY PLAN IS SO PERFECT!
75
YOU WILL STOKE THE FIRE OF THE PEOPLE'S ANGER! I WANT THEIR HATE AND THEIR DESPERATION TO GROW . . .
BUT . . . WHY?
. . . WHEN THEY HATE ME ENOUGH, THEY WILL DO ANYTHING TO ESCAPE FROM MY RULE. THEN YOU WILL SEND THEM THROUGH THE VEIL, FORCING THEM THROUGH A NEW PORTAL!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND . . .


THE VEIL IS THE ONLY OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF FREEDOM . . . MY FREEDOM! A MASSIVE ATTACK WILL CAUSE IT TO FALL APART. ITS STRUCTURE HAS BECOME WEAK WITH AGE . . .
. . . THE FORCE OF ALL THE PEOPLE WILL DESTROY IT! IT'S NO USE WASTING OUR TIME FIGHTING AGAINST THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL.
THE CONSEQUENCES OF MASSIVE MOVEMENT THROUGH THE VEIL WILL BE CATASTROPHIC FOR EARTH . . .
SO, MY DEAR CEDRIC . . . DO NOT FAIL ME THIS TIME!


BACK IN HEATHERFIELD, SUNDAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED. CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL WEEK FOR THIS DAY . . .
. . . BUT GREAT EXPECTATIONS CAN SOMETIMES BRING GREAT DISAPPOINTMENTS, TOO!
BELIEVE ME, IRMA! I'M SORRIER THAN YOU! IT'S JUST A MILD CASE OF THE FLU, BUT I'D RATHER BE SAFE THAN SORRY! I'LL BE THERE FOR THE NEXT CONCERT, OKAY?


FIRST WILL, AND NOW YOU! WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GUYS? THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE BEST DAY EVER! WHO KNOWS WHEN WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS?
LET'S GO, IRMA! WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!
WELL, YOUR LOSS, HAY LIN. AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T DESERVE IT, I'LL PICK YOU UP SOME AUTOGRAPHS. HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER!

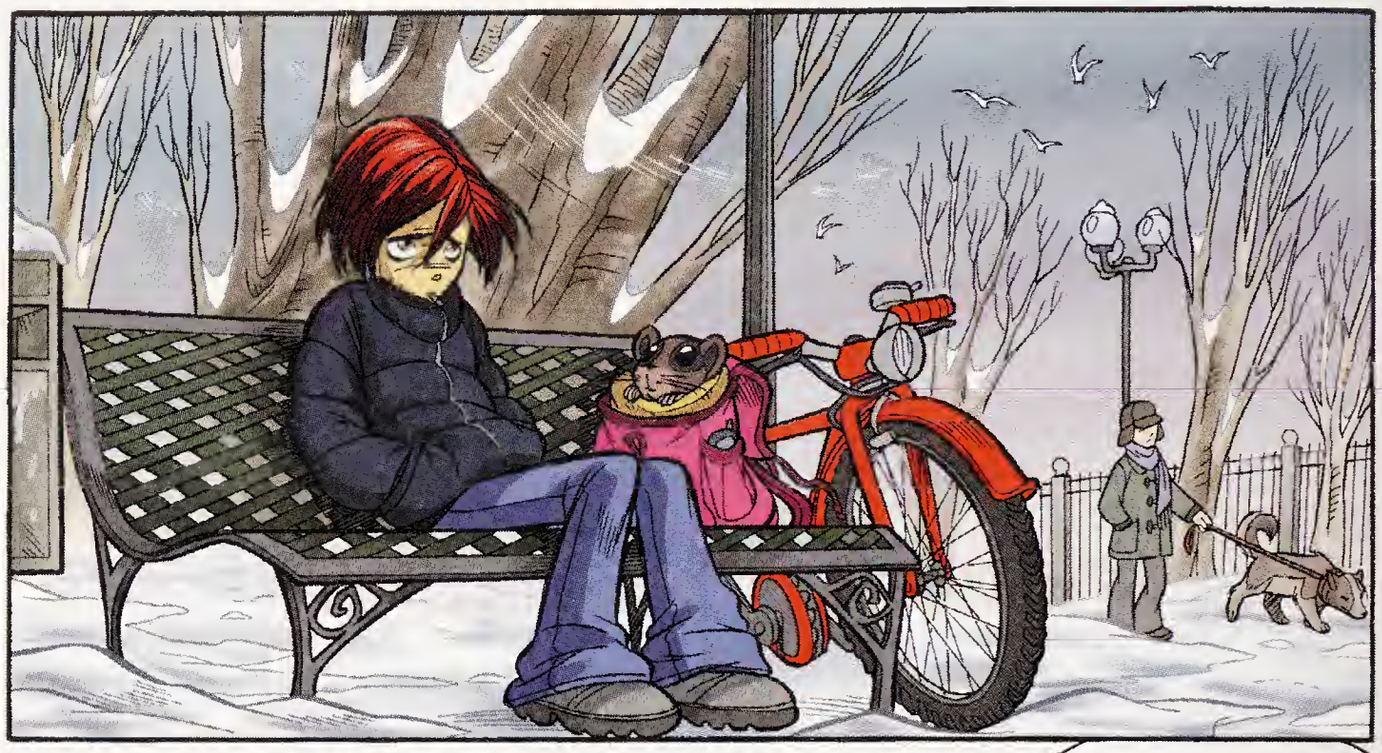

I DON'T LIKE LYING TO MY FRIENDS . . . BUT IF I TOLD THEM THE TRUTH THEY WOULD HAVE MADE FUN OF ME FOREVER!
TLIC
SKIPPING OUT ON A CONCERT TO HELP YOUR PARENTS OUT AT THE RESTAURANT IS NOT THE COOLEST THING TO DO . . .
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP

. . . BUT UNTIL MOM STARTS FEELING BETTER, IT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO DO.
AH-CHOO!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, HAY DIN . . . SNIFF . . . I THINK I'M A LIDDLE INFECTIOUS!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO BACK DOWNSTAIRS! IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, CALL ME!
. . . ALTHOUGH SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THE ONE WHO REALLY NEEDS ME IS MY FATHER!
PRIVATE
I THINK I MIGHT BE A LITTLE CONFUSED—DID YOU ORDER THE FRIED ICE CREAM?
ACTUALLY, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE FRIED SPRING ROLLS FOR HALF AN HOUR . . . BUT AT THIS POINT, THE FRIED ICE CREAM WOULD BE FINE!
AARGH! WHOSE ORDER OF RICE IS THIS? AND MAKE SURE YOU KEEP THAT SOUP WARM!
HERE . . . LET ME HELP WITH THAT, FANG!
HAY LIN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? RING UP THE BILL FOR TABLE FIVE AND THEN TAKE THE ORDERS FOR TABLES EIGHT, TEN, AND TWELVE! HURRY!
WHEW! I'VE ONLY BEEN BACK ON THE JOB FOR THREE SECONDS, AND ALREADY I WANT TO TAKE A BREAK!
KITCHEN
I BET IRMA, CORNELIA, AND TARANEE ARE HAVING MORE FUN THAN I AM!

FUTUREDOME, THE COVERED STADIUM IN HEATHERFIELD
OVER HERE, GIRLS! OKAY . . . STAY PUT AND TRY NOT TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE!
NO ENTRY
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, MR. LAIR!
MY PLEASURE, GIRLS. ENJOY THE SHOW!
WE ALREADY ARE!
OVER THERE! LOOK!
DANNY! DANNY! DAAAAAANNY!
WH—WHAT IS WRONG WITH ALL OF YOU?
DID YOU SEE HIM? THAT WAS DANNY DOLL! THE BASS PLAYER OF KARMILLA! AND IF HE'S HERE . . .
. . . KARMILLA HAS TO BE CLOSE BY!
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SIR? DO YOU WANT ME TO ARREST THESE DELINQUENTS?
NO NEED FOR THAT, SPUD—THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, AND THESE ARE HER BEST FRIENDS . . .

OKAY . . . TRY NOT TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD! YOU'RE HERE TO SEE THE SHOW, NOT STAGE ONE!
YES, MR. LAIR!
LOOK! THERE'S MATT!
FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID! IF YOU WANT TO PUT THEM IN JAIL, GO FOR IT! I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU!
HE MUST BE SO NERVOUS! HE DIDN'T EVEN SEE US!
EXIT
OPENING FOR KARMILLA IS HUGE!
GIVE ME THE CAMERA! I WANT TO TAKE A PICTURE OF HIM FOR WILL!
OUFF!
HA! I CAN JUST IMAGINE HER FACE WHEN SHE SEES THIS . . .
FLASH

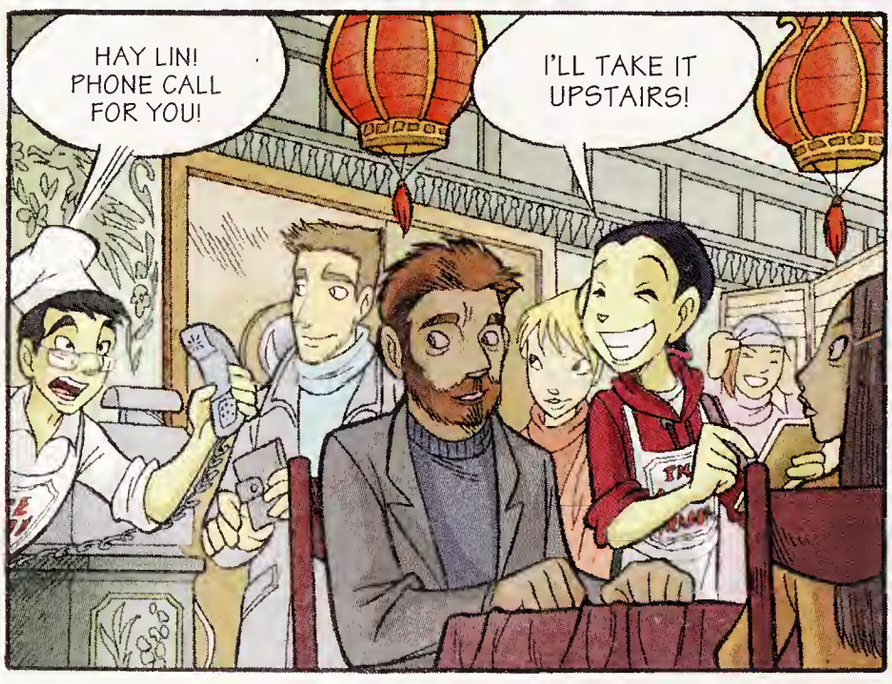
WHAT . . . NO CANDLES?
NO CANDLES. HERE'S YOUR SLICE . . .
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT NOW, YOU CAN HAVE IT LATER!
I WON'T WANT IT LATER, EITHER. I'M NOT HUNGRY.
WILL . . .
COME HERE, DORMOUSE! LET'S GO FOR A WALK . . .
SAY SOMETHING, SUSAN! DON'T LET HER GO OFF ANGRY! STOP HER!
THAT WAS GREAT, SUSAN. REAL GREAT.
SLAM



IT'S A SAD SUNDAY . . .

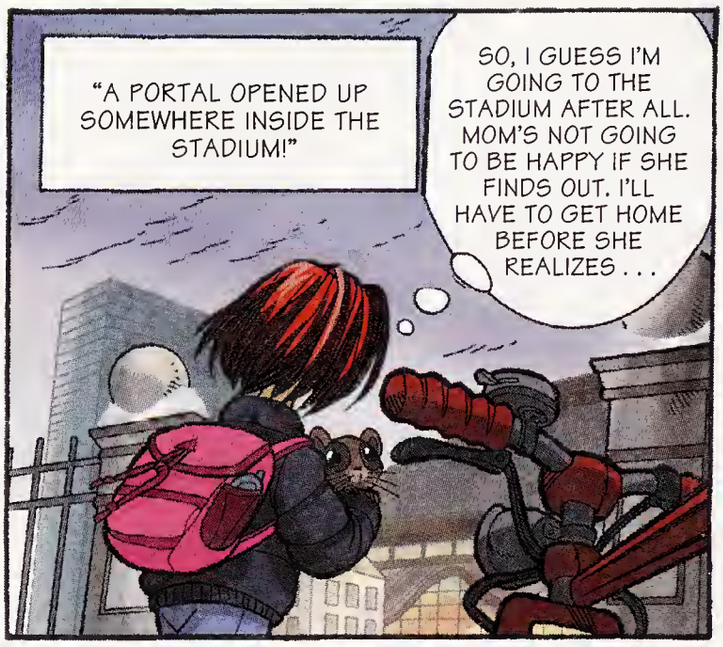
. . . WHEN I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MONDAY! THAT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME SINCE WE MOVED TO HEATHERFIELD!

I HOPE HAY LIN IS ENJOYING HERSELF! AT LEAST SHE DECIDED NOT TO GO TO THE CONCERT . . . SOMEBODY ELSE MADE MY DECISION FOR ME!


HAY LIN! PHONE CALL FOR YOU!
I'LL TAKE IT UPSTAIRS!

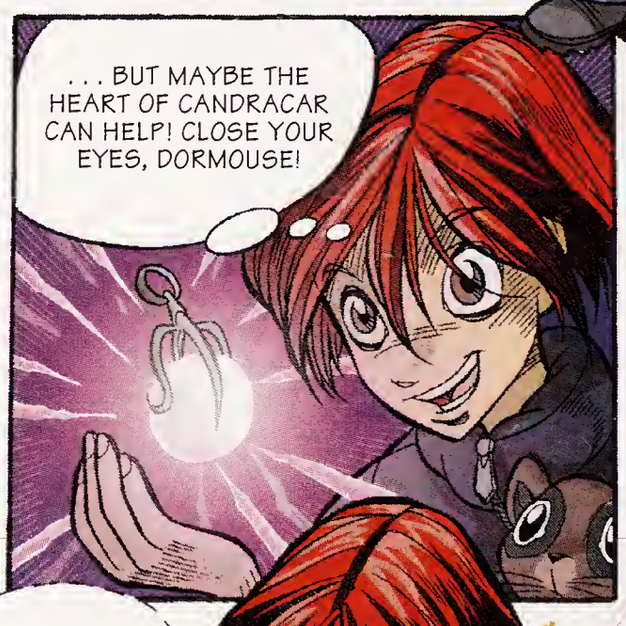
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE THIS ALL BY YOURSELF? IT'S EASY! JUST WRITE DOWN THE ORDER AND GIVE IT TO THE COOK! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

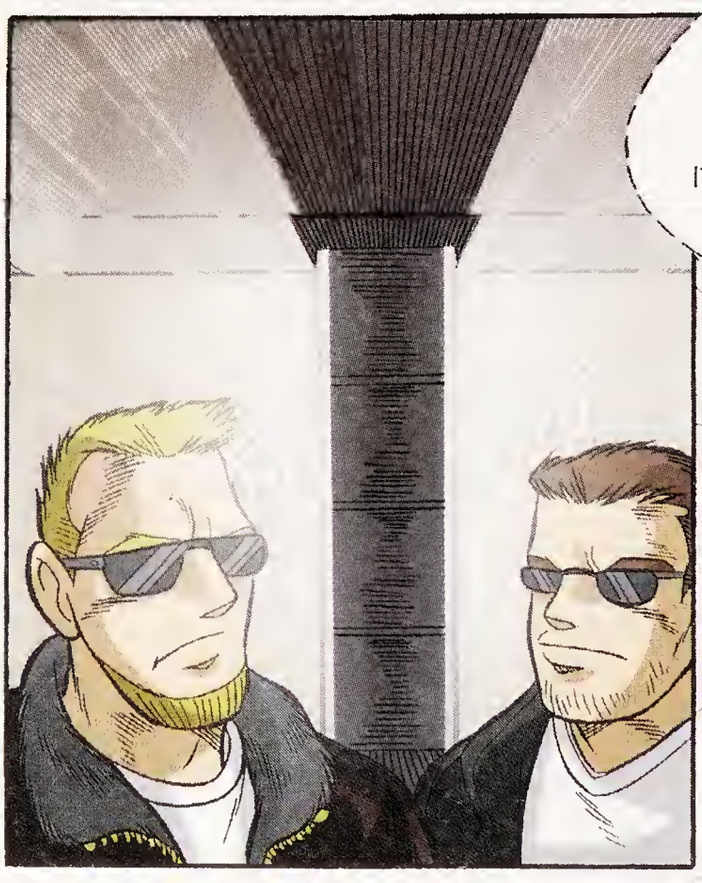
WILL! HOW ARE YOU? DID YOU AND YOUR MOM MAKE UP? HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT WE ARE STILL FIGHTING! IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN! NOTHING IS WRONG, SPECIFICALLY. . . I JUST DON'T WANT TO MAKE UP WITH HER QUITE YET. . .
. . . PLEASE, HAY LIN! DON'T YOU YELL AT ME, TOO! YOU'RE MY FRIEND—YOU SHOULD BE CHEERING ME UP!
OKAY, OKAY! I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING FUNNY. THEN! LISTEN . . .
UH-OH . . .
WILL! THE MAP OF THE TWELVE PORTALS IS FLASHING!
THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY, HAY LIN . . .
I'M NOT JOKING! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!


"A PORTAL OPENED UP SOMEWHERE INSIDE THE STADIUM!"
SO, I GUESS I'M GOING TO THE STADIUM AFTER ALL. MOM'S NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY IF SHE FINDS OUT. I'LL HAVE TO GET HOME BEFORE SHE REALIZES . . .

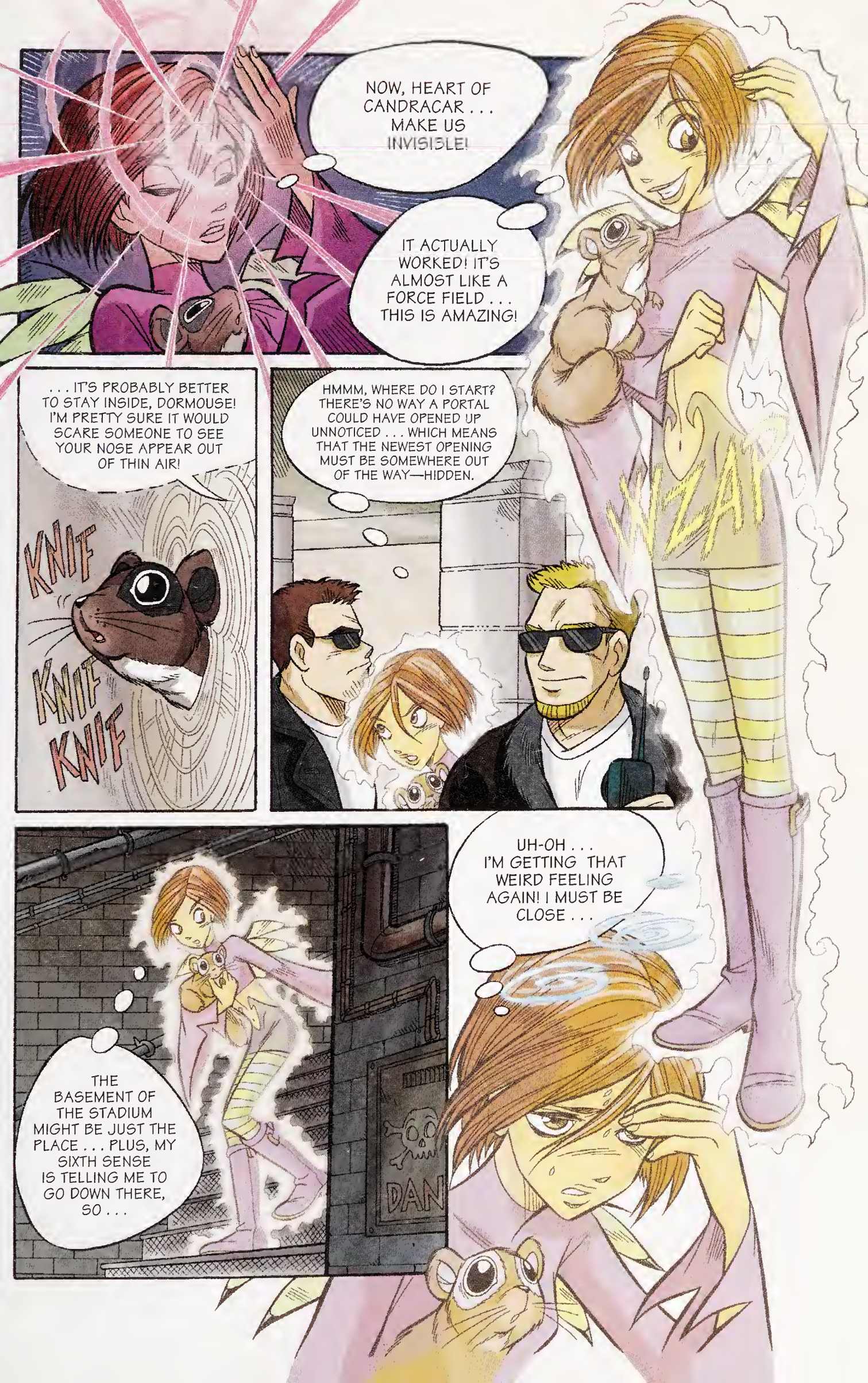
HOPEFULLY HAY LIN WILL BE ABLE TO COME AND HELP ME, SINCE I HAVE NO CLUE WHERE THE OTHER GIRLS ARE. I GUESS FOR NOW, I'VE GOT TO DO THIS BY MYSELF!

FIRST, I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY INSIDE—WITHOUT A TICKET, I DOUBT THESE TWO GOONS WILL LET ME JUST WALTZ RIGHT IN . . .


. . . BUT MAYBE THE HEART OF CANDRACAR CAN HELP! CLOSE YOUR EYES, DORMOUSE!

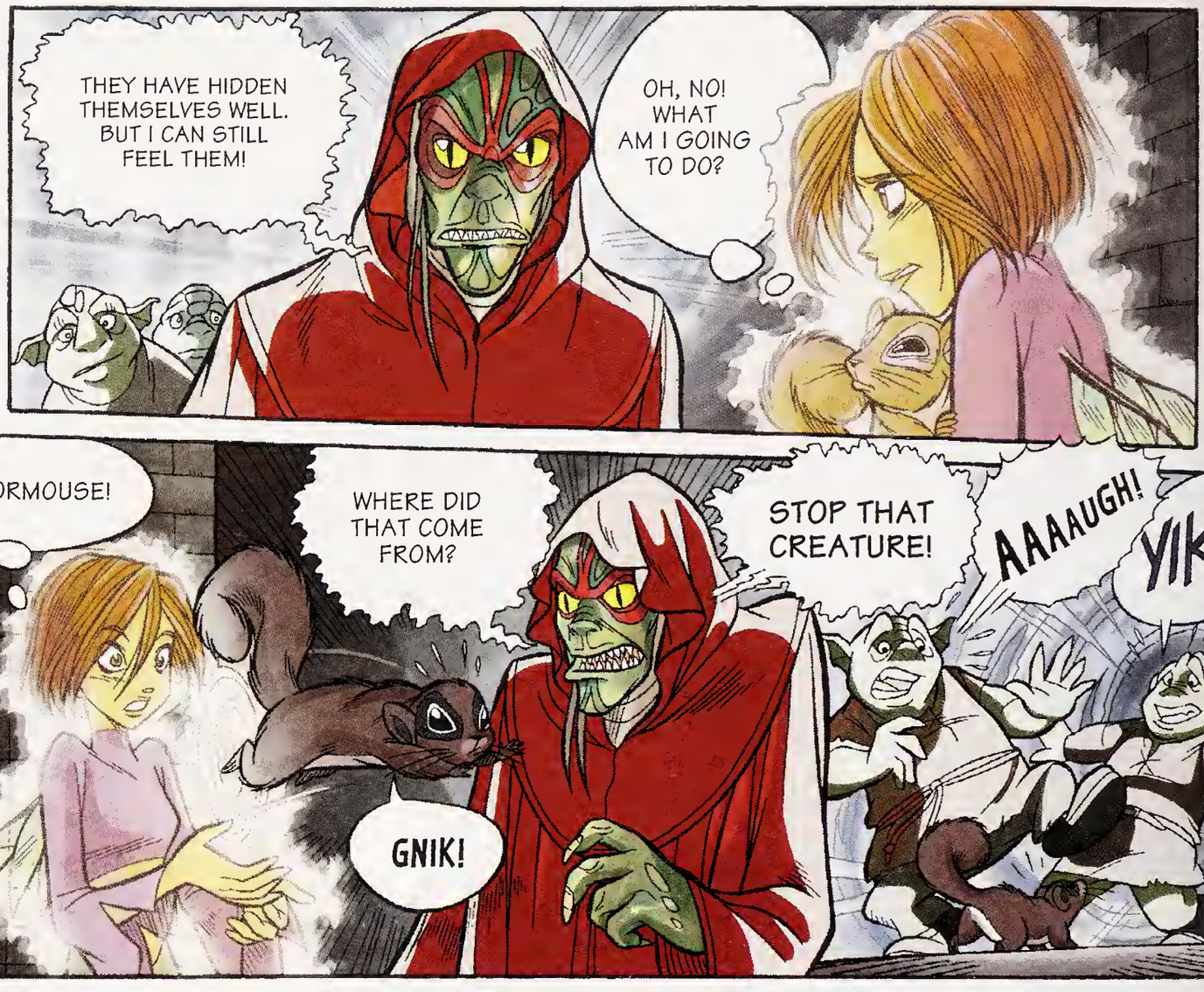


DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, DORMOUSE! IT'S STILL ME.
EERK!


NOW, HEART OF CANDRACAR . . . MAKE US INVISIBLE!
IT ACTUALLY WORKED! IT'S ALMOST LIKE A FORCE FIELD . . . THIS IS AMAZING!
ZAP
. . . IT'S PROBABLY BETTER TO STAY INSIDE, DORMOUSE! I'M PRETTY SURE IT WOULD SCARE SOMEONE TO SEE YOUR NOSE APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR!
KNIF
KNIF
KNIF
HMMM, WHERE DO I START? THERE'S NO WAY A PORTAL COULD HAVE OPENED UP UNNOTICED . . . WHICH MEANS THAT THE NEWEST OPENING MUST BE SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE WAY—HIDDEN.
UH-OH . . . I'M GETTING THAT WEIRD FEELING AGAIN! I MUST BE CLOSE . . .
THE BASEMENT OF THE STADIUM MIGHT BE JUST THE PLACE . . . PLUS, MY SIXTH SENSE IS TELLING ME TO GO DOWN THERE, SO . . .
DAN

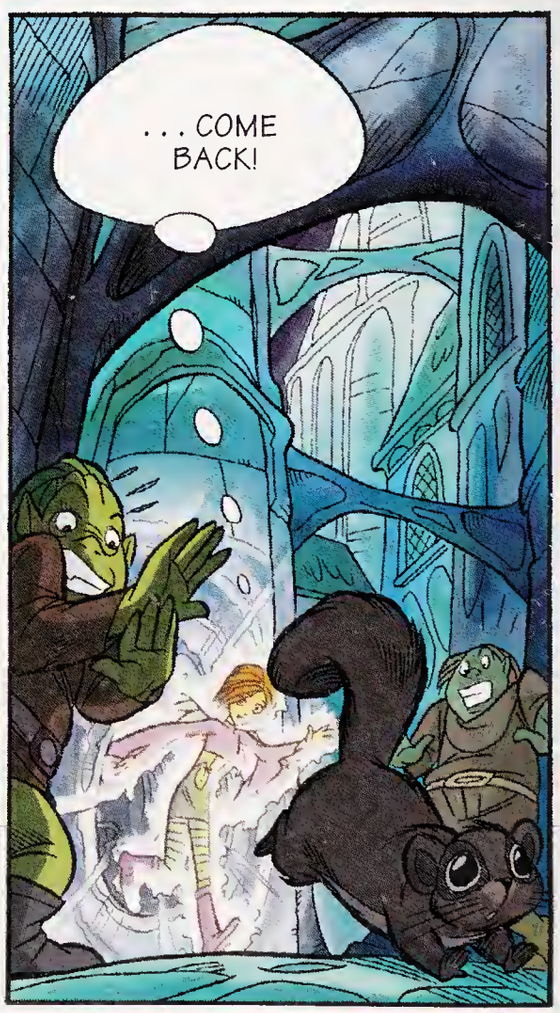
. . . VERY CLOSE.
DON'T BE AFRAID! FREEDOM IS CLOSE AT HAND!
WHAT? DON'T YOU TRUST ME?
IT'S NOT THAT, RAVEN! YOUR OFFER IS TEMPTING . . . BUT CROSSING THE THRESHOLD RIGHT NOW COULD BE A HUGE MISTAKE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DO YOU PREFER TO STAY IN MERIDIAN? DO YOU WANT TO BE MISERABLE AND HUNGRY? IF THAT'S THE CASE . . . I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE.
NO! NO! . THAT'S NOT IT . . . IT'S JUST . . . CALEB . . .
CALEB! CALEB! DON'T EVEN SPEAK HI NAME! CALEB IS ALL TALK AND NO ACTION . . . I'M OFFERING YOU A WAY OF ESCAPE!

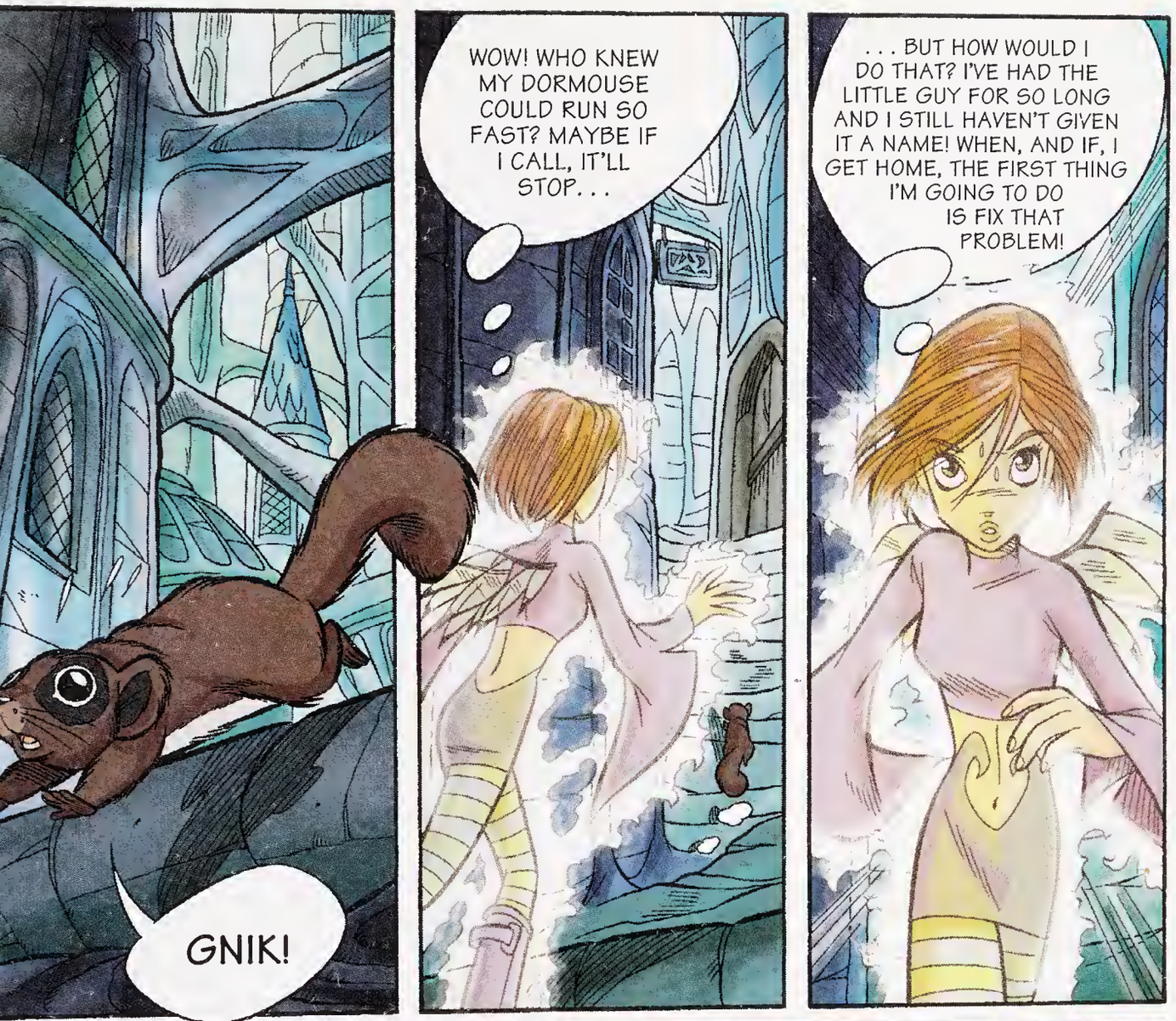
CALEB IS ONE OF US!
BUT I'M MORE POWERFUL THAN HE IS! I CAN OPEN AN OLD PASSAGEWAY IN THE VEIL WITH MY MAGIC. I'VE ALREADY DONE IT IN OTHER AREAS OF MERIDIAN . . .
. . . AND NOW I'VE COME TO HELP YOU! JOIN ME! LEAVE PHOBOS AND HIS CRUEL WAYS BEHIND YOU!
NOBODY WILL NOTICE US! RIGHT NOW, AS WE SPEAK, A GREAT NUMBER OF EARTH PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED. IF WE DISGUISE OURSELVES WELL ENOUGH, WE CAN BLEND IN WITH THEM—WE CAN ESCAPE!
THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN ARE REBELLING! I HAVE TO FIND THE OTHER GIRLS!
THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE . . . OUFF!
THUMP
SILENCE! THERE'S SOMEBODY HERE . . .

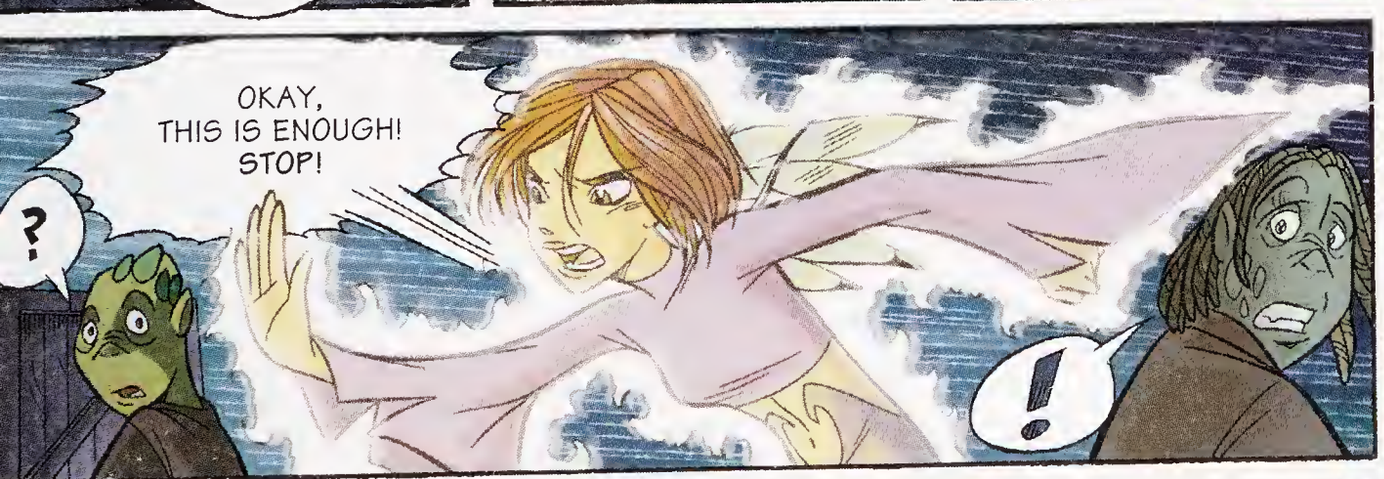

THEY HAVE HIDDEN THEMSELVES WELL. BUT I CAN STILL FEEL THEM!
OH, NO! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
DORMOUSE!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
GNIK!
STOP THAT CREATURE!
AAAAUGH!
YIKE!

COWARDS! ARE YOU REALLY AFRAID OF THIS PATHETIC CREATURE?
B—BUT IT WAS SO . . . HAIRY! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE?

OH, NO! MY DORMOUSE ENTERED THE PORTAL! COME BACK . . . PLEASE . . .

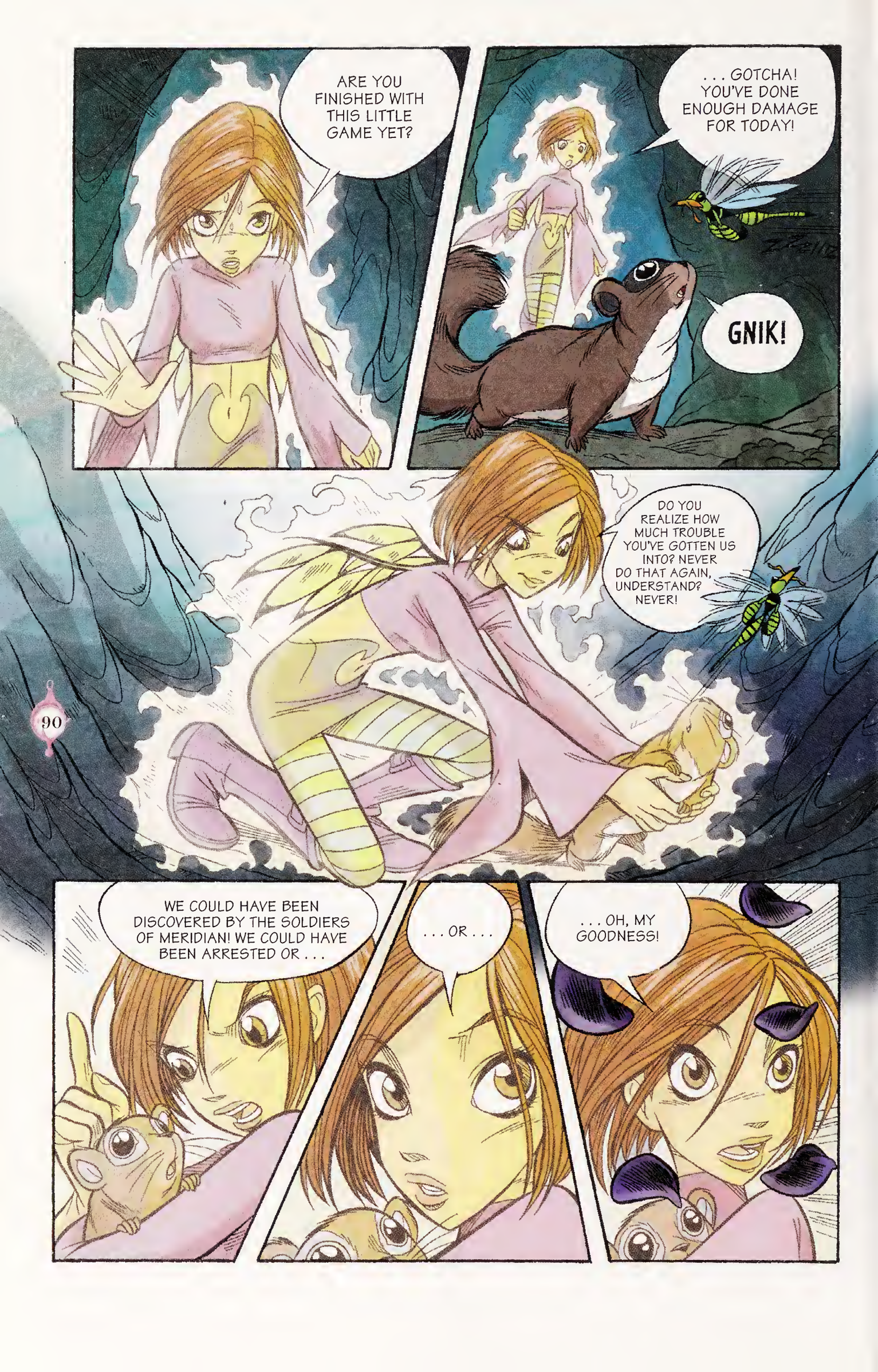

. . . COME BACK!

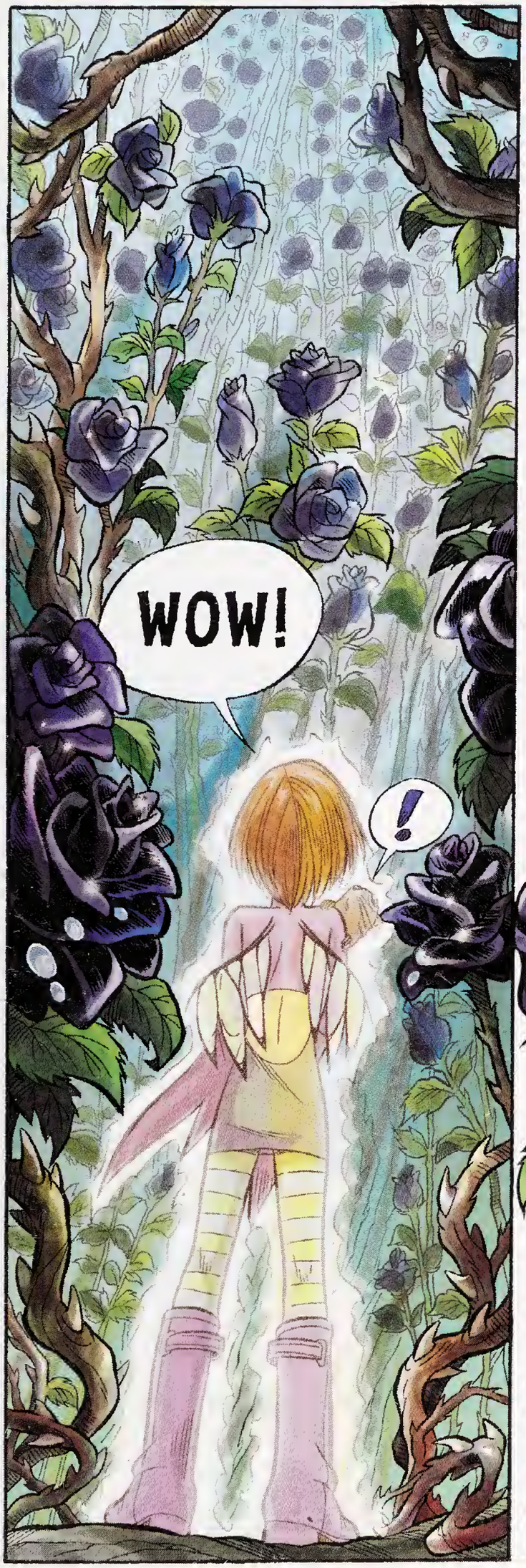

GNIK!
WOW! WHO KNEW MY DORMOUSE COULD RUN SO FAST? MAYBE IF I CALL, IT'LL STOP. . .
. . . BUT HOW WOULD I DO THAT? I'VE HAD THE LITTLE GUY FOR SO LONG AND I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN IT A NAME! WHEN, AND IF, I GET HOME, THE FIRST THING I'M GOING TO DO IS FIX THAT PROBLEM!

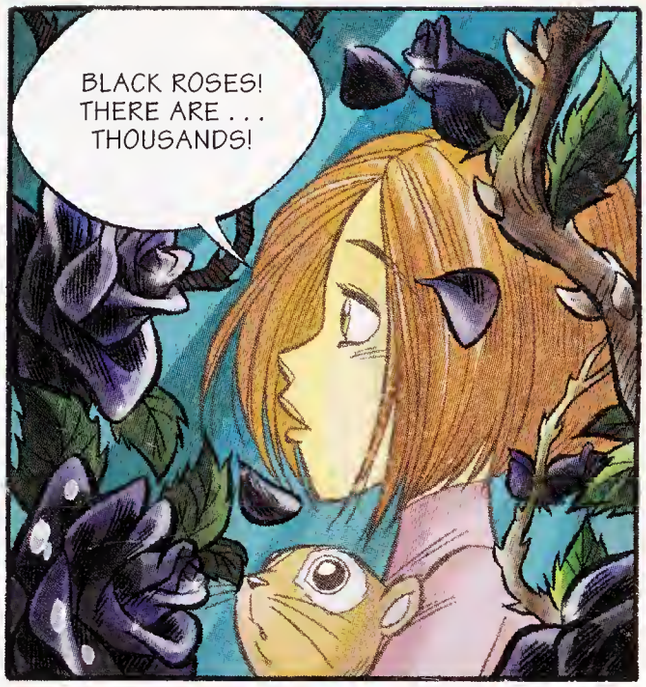

OKAY, THIS IS ENOUGH! STOP!
?
!

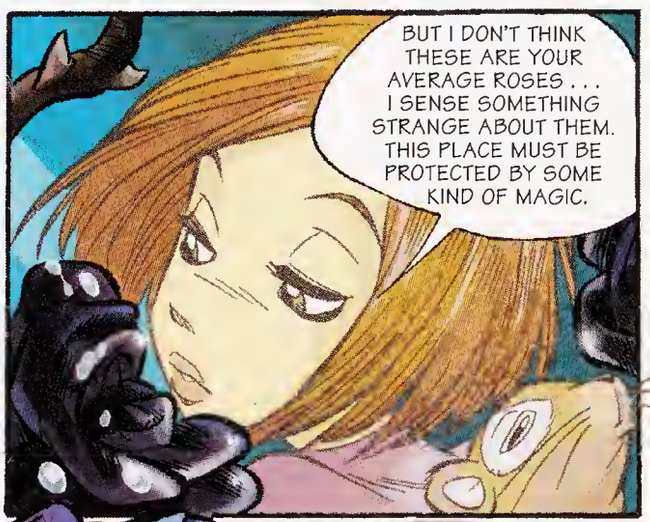
ARE YOU SPEAKING TO ME? IF YOU WANTED TO BE FUNNY, YOU PICKED THE WRONG PERSON TO PLAY WITH!
OOPS . . .

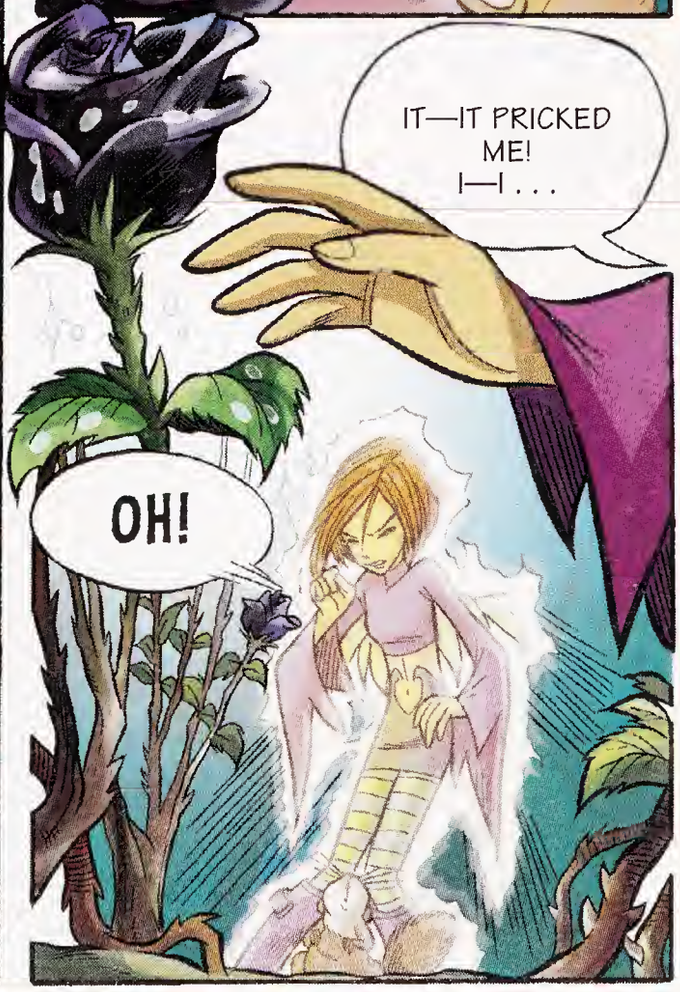
YOU LITTLE BEAST! IT SEEMS THAT GETTING INTO TROUBLE IS YOUR SPECIALITY . . .


ARE YOU FINISHED WITH THIS LITTLE GAME YET?
. . . GOTCHA! YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE FOR TODAY!
GNIK!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU'VE GOTTEN US INTO? NEVER DO THAT AGAIN, UNDERSTAND? NEVER!
WE COULD HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE SOLDIERS OF MERIDIAN! WE COULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR . . .
. . . OR . . .
. . . OH, MY GOODNESS!

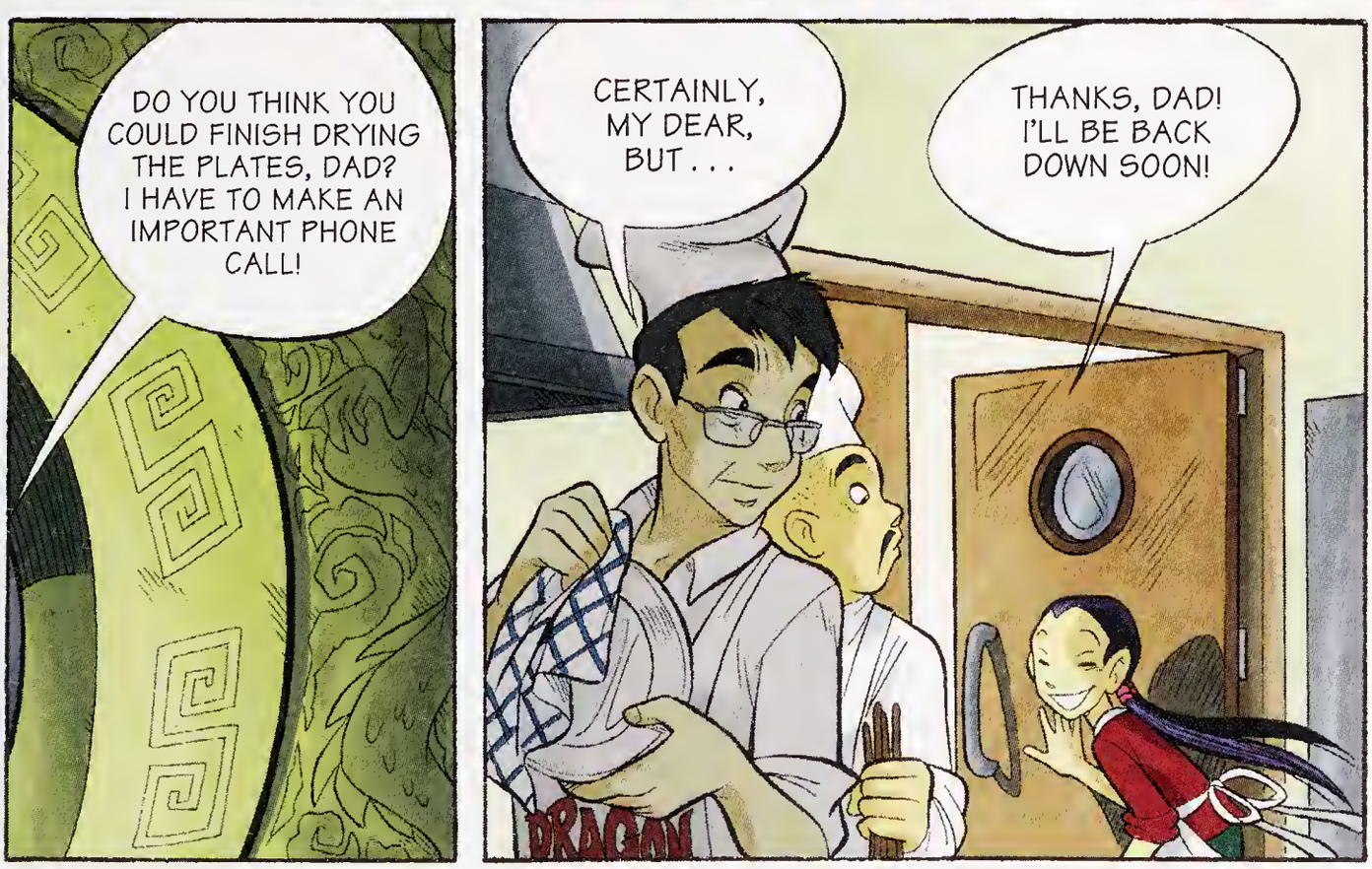

WOW!
!


BLACK ROSES! THERE ARE . . . THOUSANDS!


BUT I DON'T THINK THESE ARE YOUR AVERAGE ROSES . . . I SENSE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THEM. THIS PLACE MUST BE PROTECTED BY SOME KIND OF MAGIC.


IT—IT PRICKED ME! I—I . . .
OH!

. . . I DON'T . . .
HINN? HNNN!


DO YOU THINK YOU COULD FINISH DRYING THE PLATES, DAD? I HAVE TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT PHONE CALL!
CERTAINLY, MY DEAR, BUT . . .
THANKS, DAD! I'LL BE BACK DOWN SOON!
DRAGON

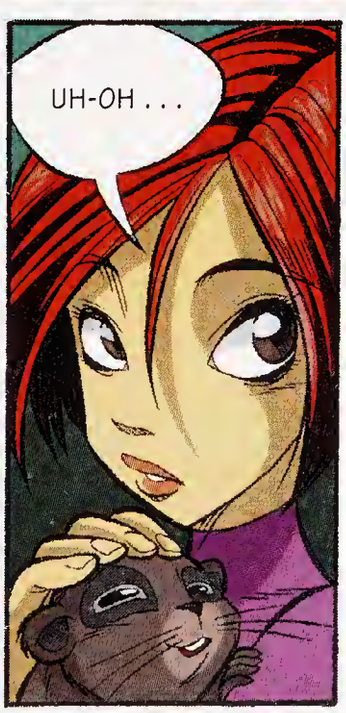
I WONDER IF WILL MANAGED TO GET INTO THE STADIUM WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE?
I REALLY HOPE SHE'S OKAY!
BRIIP BRIIP
COME ON, WILL . . . PICK UP!
THE PERSON YOU ARE CALLING IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE. PLEASE TRY AGAIN LATER. THIS IS A RECORDING.
UNAVAILABLE?
WHERE ARE YOU, WILL?

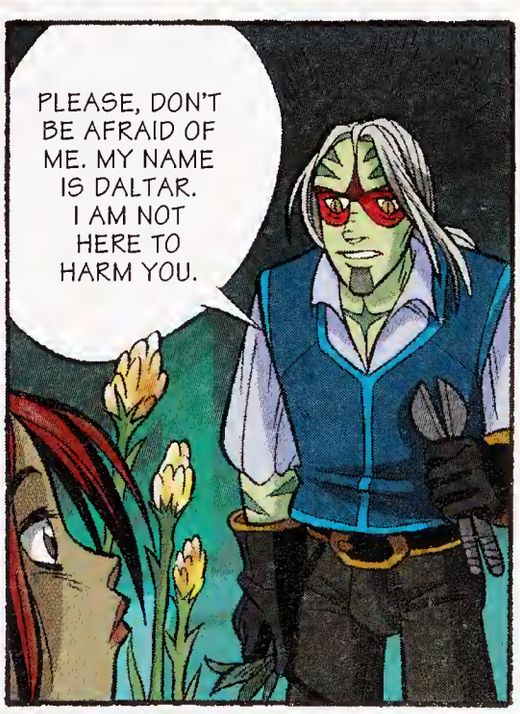
"WILL . . ."
Will!
Will!
Will!
Will, take us with you!
Don't leave us!
LEAVE ME ALONE! I WANT TO GO!
LEAVE . . . ME . . . ALONE!
N—NO!

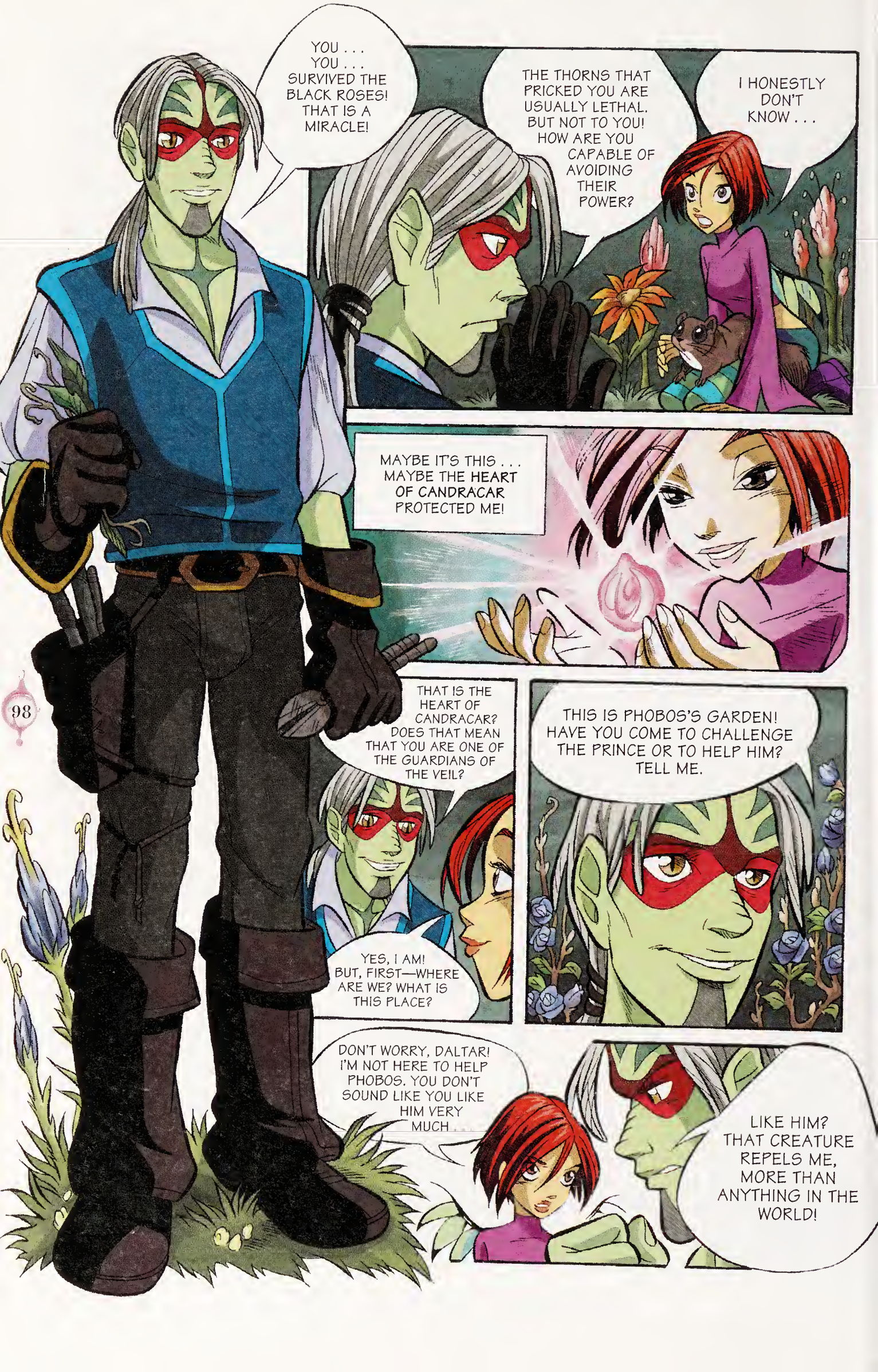
NOOoooooooooo!
WH—
WHAT . . .

WHERE AM I? HOW DID I GET HERE?

OH, DORMOUSE! YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ME ALONE AFTER ALL!


UH-OH . . .

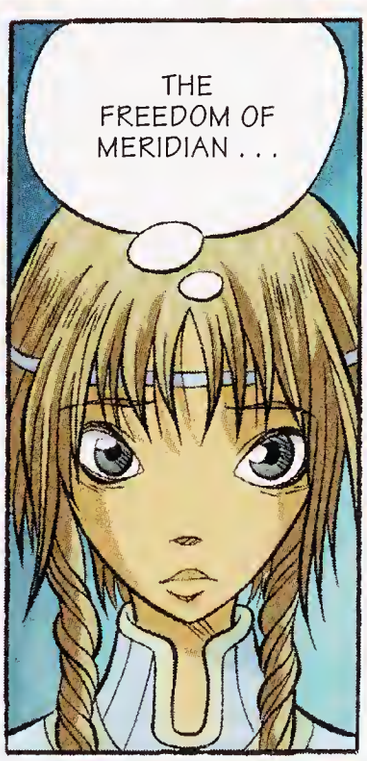

PLEASE, DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME. MY NAME IS DALTAR. I AM NOT HERE TO HARM YOU.

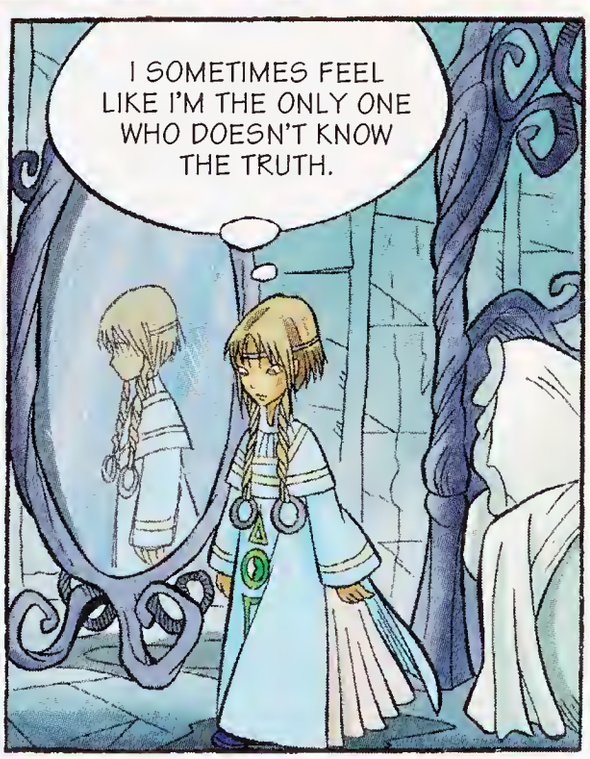

YOU . . . YOU . . . SURVIVED THE BLACK ROSES! THAT IS A MIRACLE!
THE THORNS THAT PRICKED YOU ARE USUALLY LETHAL. BUT NOT TO YOU! HOW ARE YOU CAPABLE OF AVOIDING THEIR POWER?
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW . . .
MAYBE IT'S THIS . . . MAYBE THE HEART OF CANDRACAR PROTECTED ME!
THAT IS THE HEART OF CANDRACAR? DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL?
YES, I AM! BUT, FIRST—WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS PHOBOS'S GARDEN! HAVE YOU COME TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCE OR TO HELP HIM? TELL ME.
DON'T WORRY, DALTAR! I'M NOT HERE TO HELP PHOBOS. YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU LIKE HIM VERY MUCH . . .
LIKE HIM? THAT CREATURE REPELS ME, MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD!

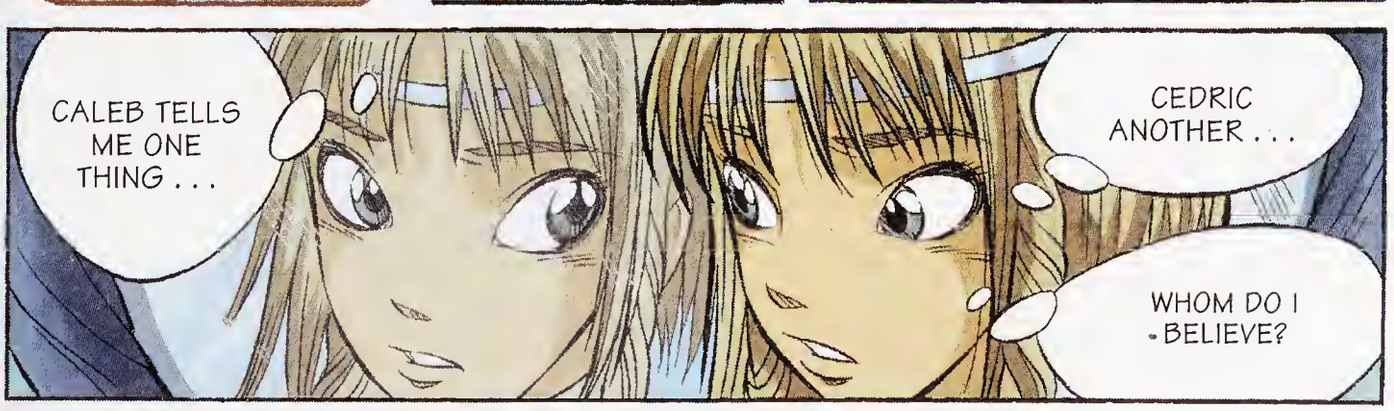
I'D TELL YOU WHY, BUT IT'S A LONG STORY. . .
I'M LISTENING.

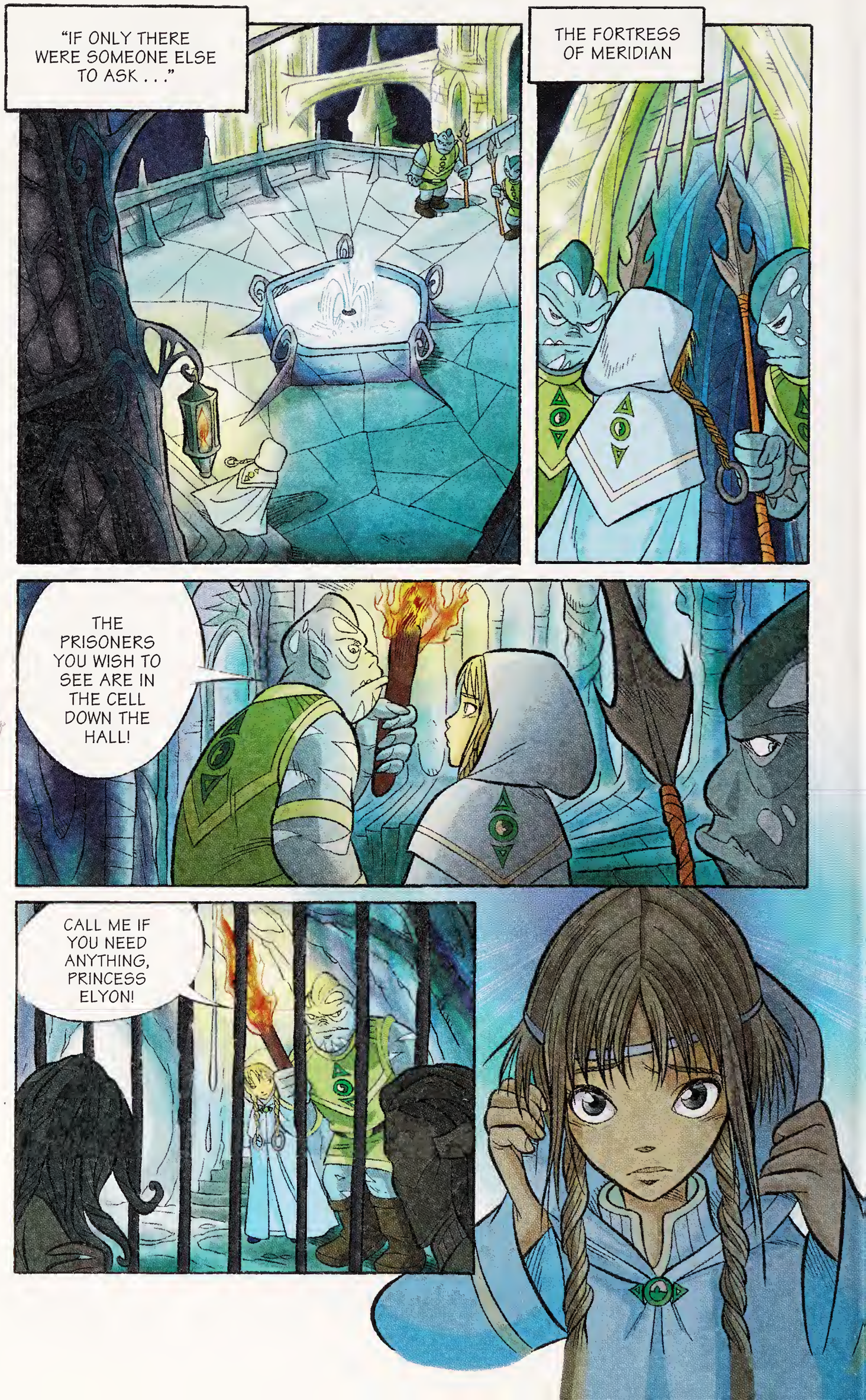
LISTEN TO ME, PRINCESS ELYON! YOU COULD DO A LOT FOR THIS WORLD.

FIGHT BESIDE US FOR THE FREEDOM OF MERIDIAN!

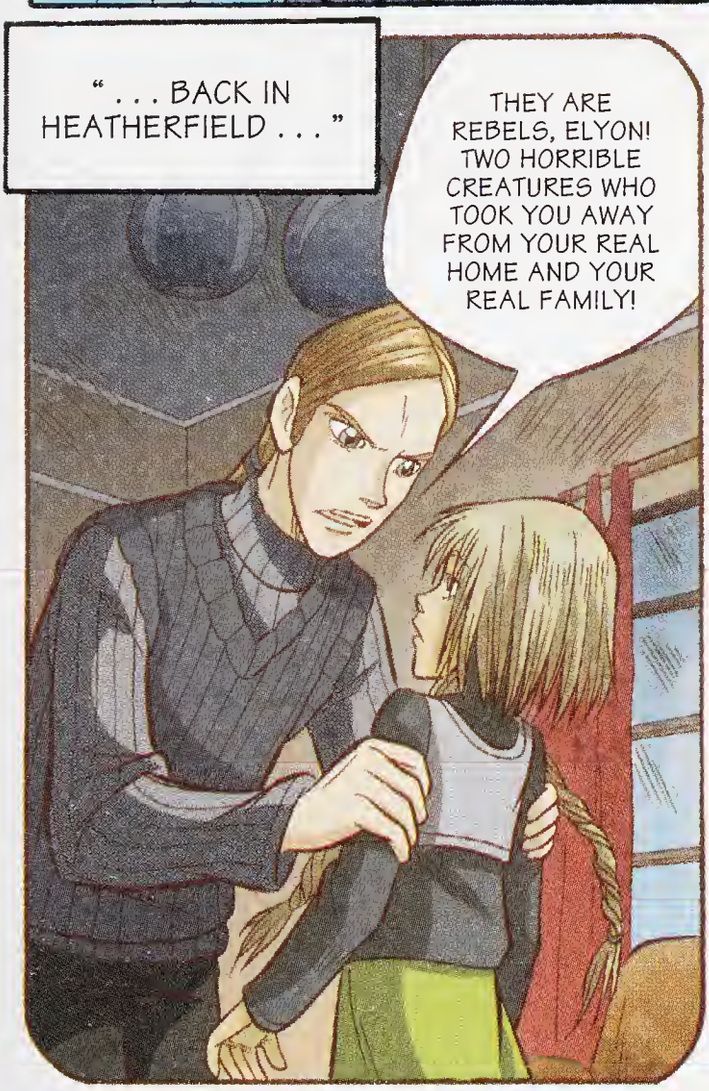

THE FREEDOM OF MERIDIAN . . .

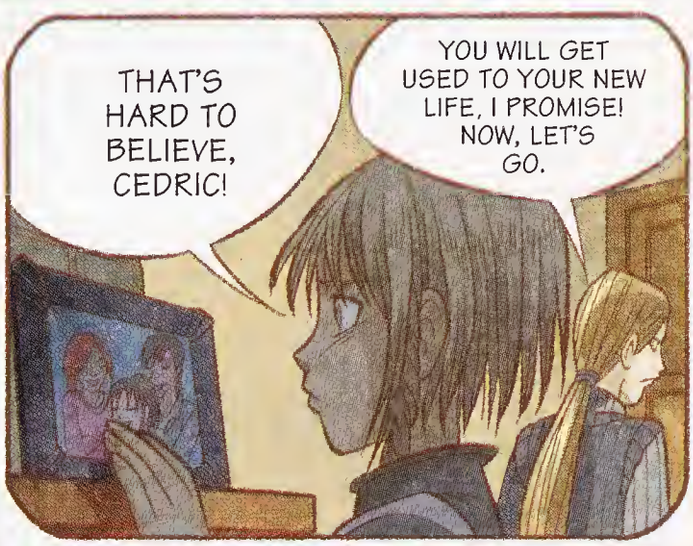

I SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUTH.


CALEB TELLS ME ONE THING . . .
CEDRIC ANOTHER . . .
WHOM DO I BELIEVE?

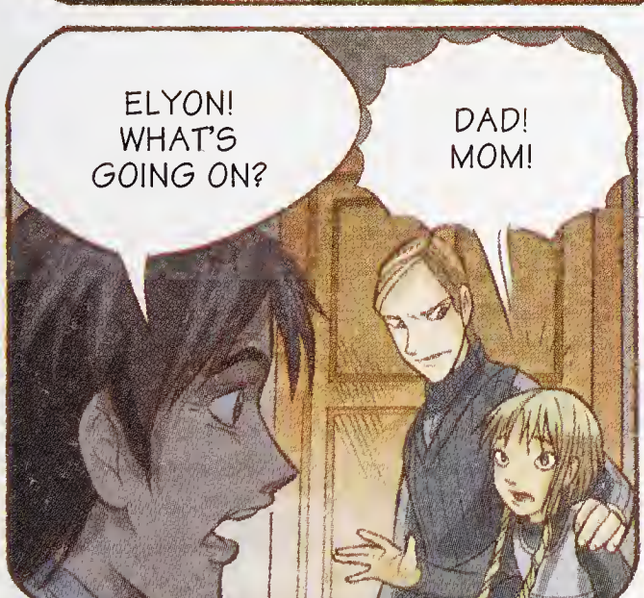

"IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE ELSE TO ASK . . ."
THE FORTRESS OF MERIDIAN
THE PRISONERS YOU WISH TO SEE ARE IN THE CELL DOWN THE HALL!
CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, PRINCESS ELYON!

ONCE UPON A TIME, THESE PEOPLE WERE MY MOTHER AND FATHER . . . IN SOME WAYS, THEY STILL ARE!
I GREW UP WITH THEM! I LOVED THEM . . . BUT SOMETHING CHANGED . . .


" . . . BACK IN HEATHERFIELD . . . "
THEY ARE REBELS, ELYON! TWO HORRIBLE CREATURES WHO TOOK YOU AWAY FROM YOUR REAL HOME AND YOUR REAL FAMILY!


THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, CEDRIC!
YOU WILL GET USED TO YOUR NEW LIFE, I PROMISE! NOW, LET'S GO.

PACK UP YOUR THINGS AND GET READY TO LEAVE!
?!

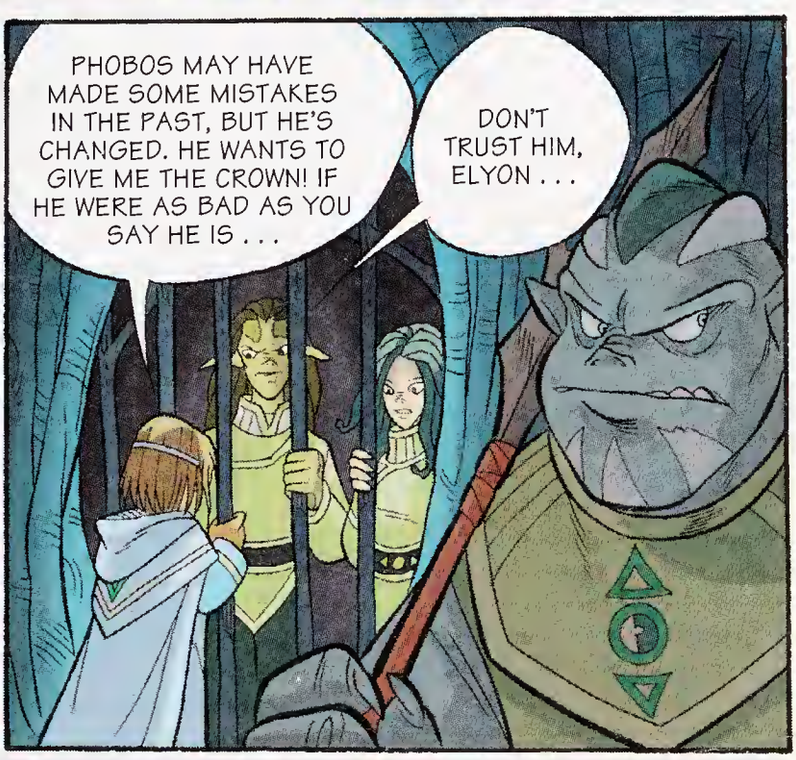

ELYON! WHAT'S GOING ON?
DAD! MOM!

DON'T CALL THEM THAT, ELYON . . .

. . . BECAUSE THIS IS WHO THEY REALLY ARE!
AHHHG!
KZZZAP
UHNNNG. . .
YOUR LITTLE GAME OF MAKE-BELIEVE IS OVER . . .
". . . LET'S GO BACK TO MERIDIAN! BACK HOME!"
ELYON! ARE . . . IS THAT YOU?
MY LITTLE GIRL! HOW ARE YOU?
COME CLOSER, HONEY! LET US SEE YOU . . .
OH, ELYON!
THEIR WORDS . . . AND THEIR GESTURES! THESE . . . THESE PEOPLE STILL LOVE ME!
I CAN'T STAY FOR LONG! I NEED YOU TO TELL ME THE TRUTH, TO CLEAR THINGS UP. I NEED SOME ANSWERS . . .
I ALREADY KNOW MY STORY AND THAT OF MERIDIAN! NOW I WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT PHOBOS AT LEAST YOUR VERSION OF THE TRUTH.

PHOBOS IS EVIL, ELYON! THAT IS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW . . . HE HAS TAKEN OVER AND CONTROLLED YOUR REIGN FOR ALL THESE YEARS!
WE TOOK YOU AWAY TO RESCUE YOU— NOT TO HURT YOU! YOUR BROTHER IS THE CRUEL ONE . . .

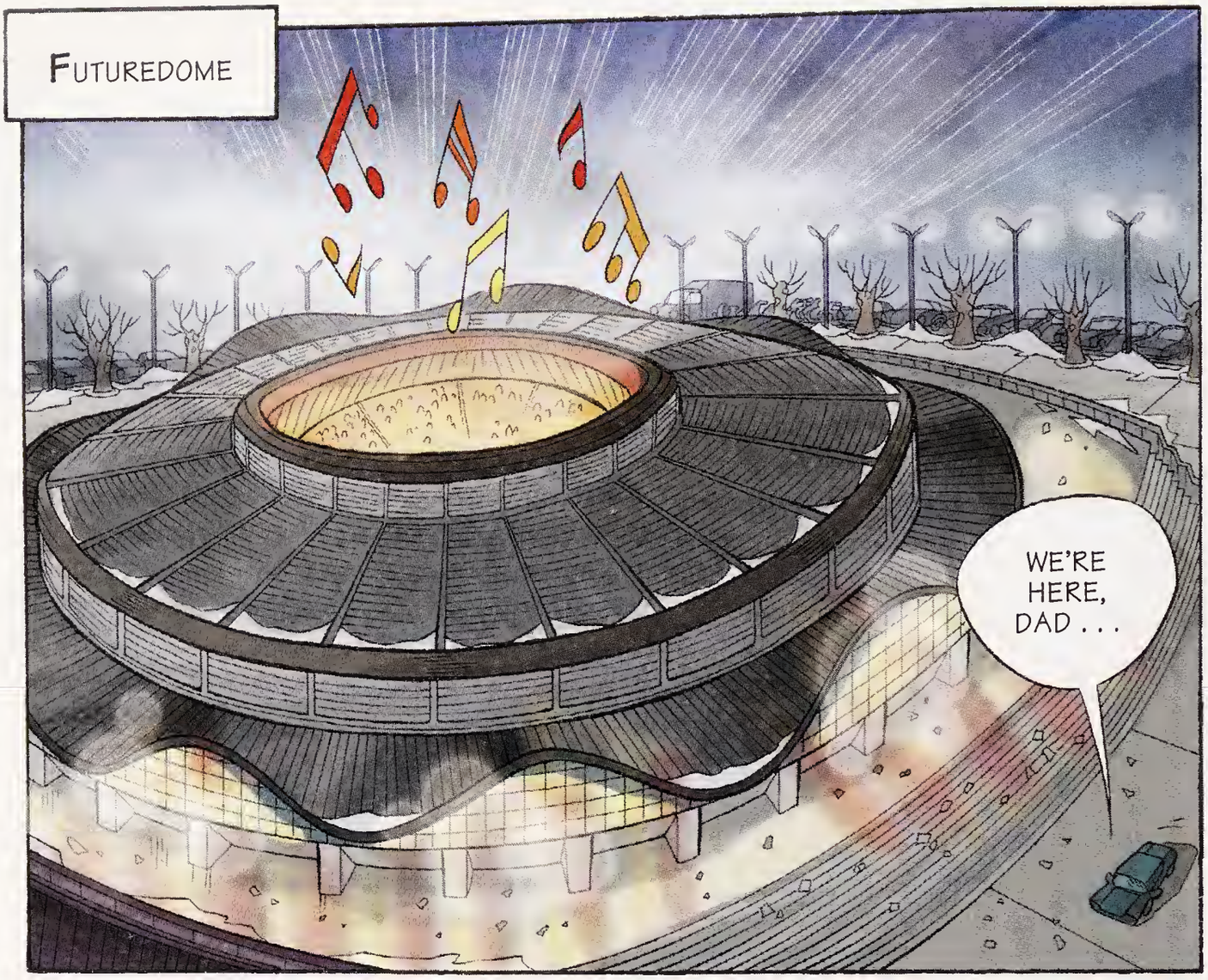
WE WANTED YOU TO GROW UP HAPPY, FAR AWAY FROM A WORLD WITH NO HOPE! PLEASE FORGIVE US! WE DID IT ALL FOR YOU!

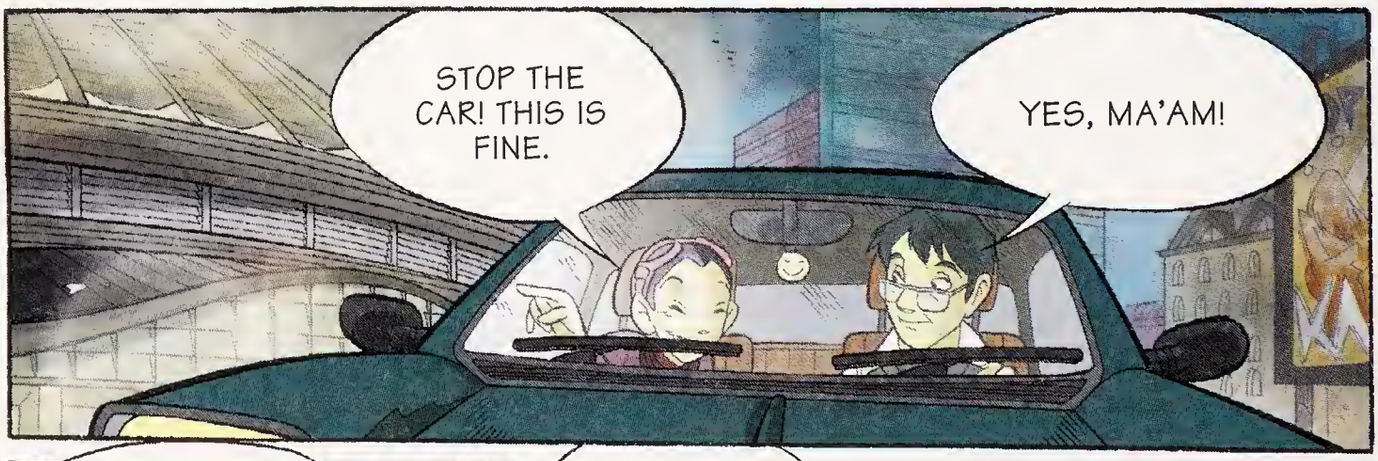

PHOBOS MAY HAVE MADE SOME MISTAKES IN THE PAST, BUT HE'S CHANGED. HE WANTS TO GIVE ME THE CROWN! IF HE WERE AS BAD AS YOU SAY HE IS . . .
DON'T TRUST HIM, ELYON . . .

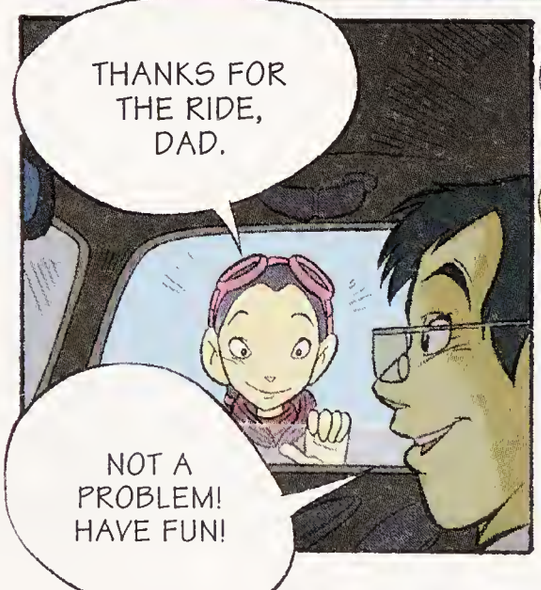
DON'T TRUST ANYBODY . . . JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART!
ALL RIGHT, PRISONERS!

IT'S DINNERTIME! GET READY!
LOWER YOUR VOICE, JARUS! PRINCESS ELYON IS HERE!

OH! FORGIVE ME, YOUR HIGHNESS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT . . .
I WAS LEAVING ANYWAY.

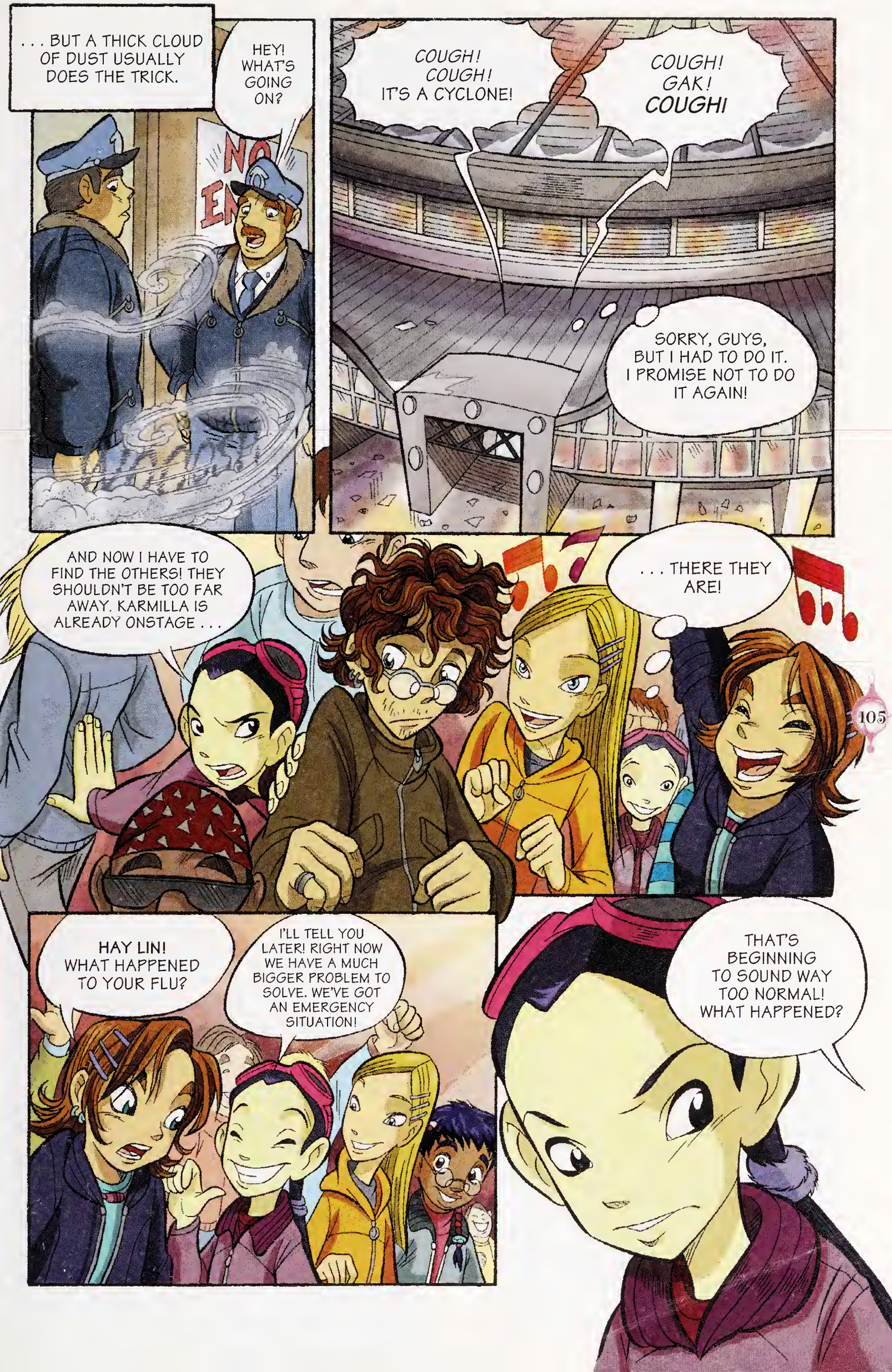

FUTUREDOME
WE'RE HERE, DAD . . .

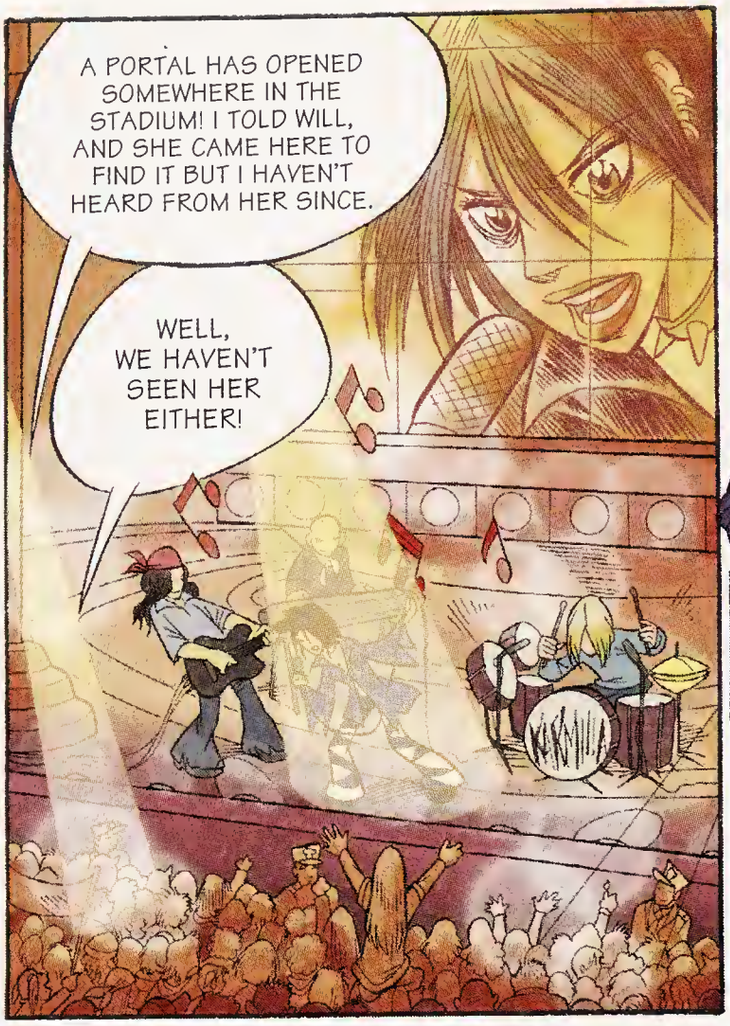

STOP THE CAR! THIS IS FINE.
YES, MA'AM!

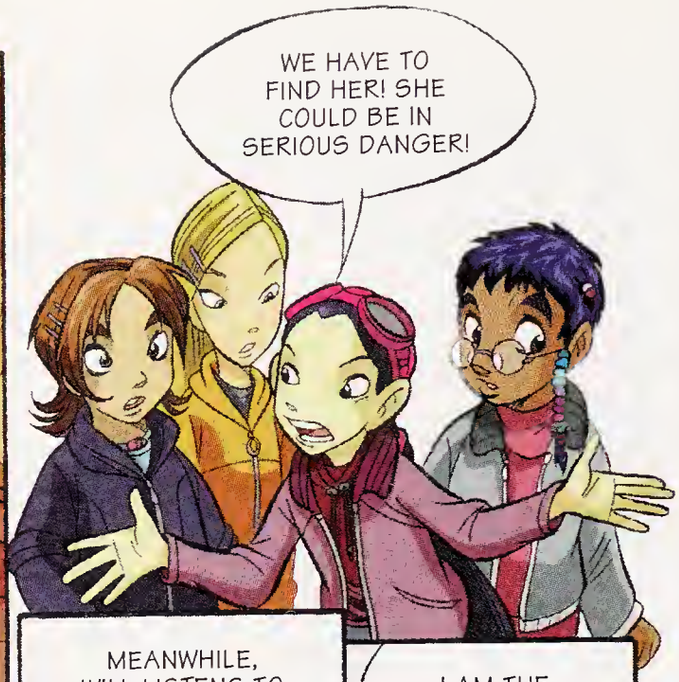

THANKS FOR THE RIDE, DAD.
NOT A PROBLEM! HAVE FUN!

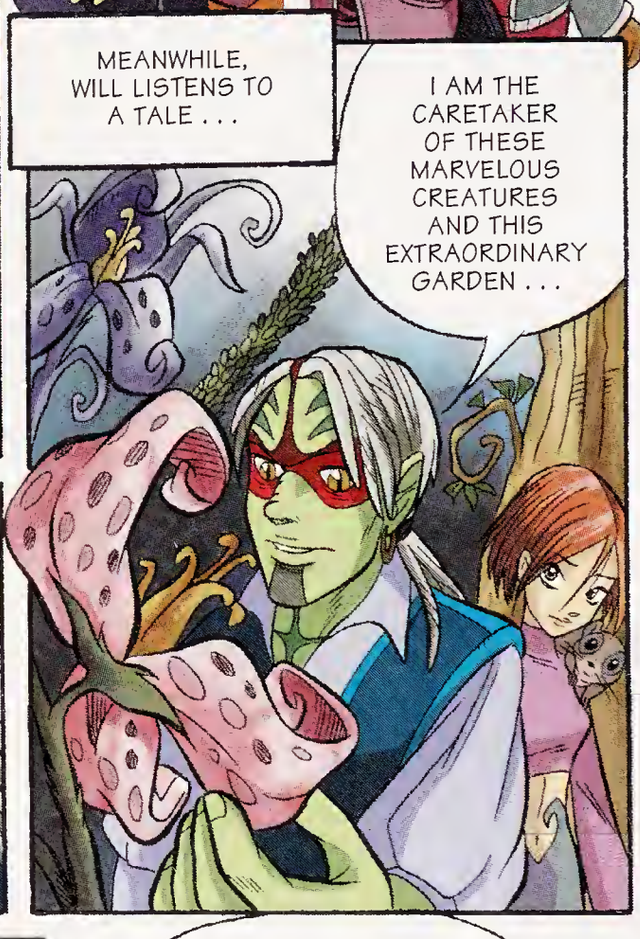
I'LL TRY! SEE YOU LATER!

PHEW! I REALLY NEED TO GET IN SHAPE . . . BUT RIGHT NOW I HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM TO SOLVE . . .
. . . HOW TO GET INSIDE WITHOUT A TICKET! I DON'T KNOW HOW WILL DID IT.

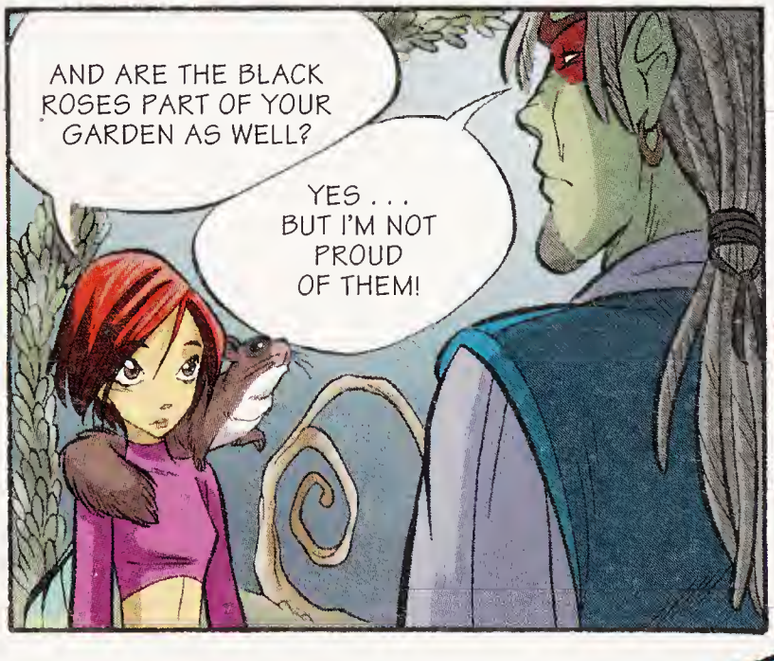

. . . BUT A THICK CLOUD OF DUST USUALLY DOES THE TRICK.
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?
COUGH! COUGH! IT'S A CYCLONE!
COUGH! GAK! COUGH!
SORRY, GUYS, BUT I HAD TO DO IT. I PROMISE NOT TO DO IT AGAIN!
AND NOW I HAVE TO FIND THE OTHERS! THEY SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY. KARMILLA IS ALREADY ONSTAGE . . .
. . . THERE THEY ARE!
HAY LIN! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FLU?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER! RIGHT NOW WE HAVE A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM TO SOLVE. WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY SITUATION!
THAT'S BEGINNING TO SOUND WAY TOO NORMAL! WHAT HAPPENED?


A PORTAL HAS OPENED SOMEWHERE IN THE STADIUM! I TOLD WILL, AND SHE CAME HERE TO FIND IT BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE.
WELL, WE HAVEN'T SEEN HER EITHER!


WE HAVE TO FIND HER! SHE COULD BE IN SERIOUS DANGER!

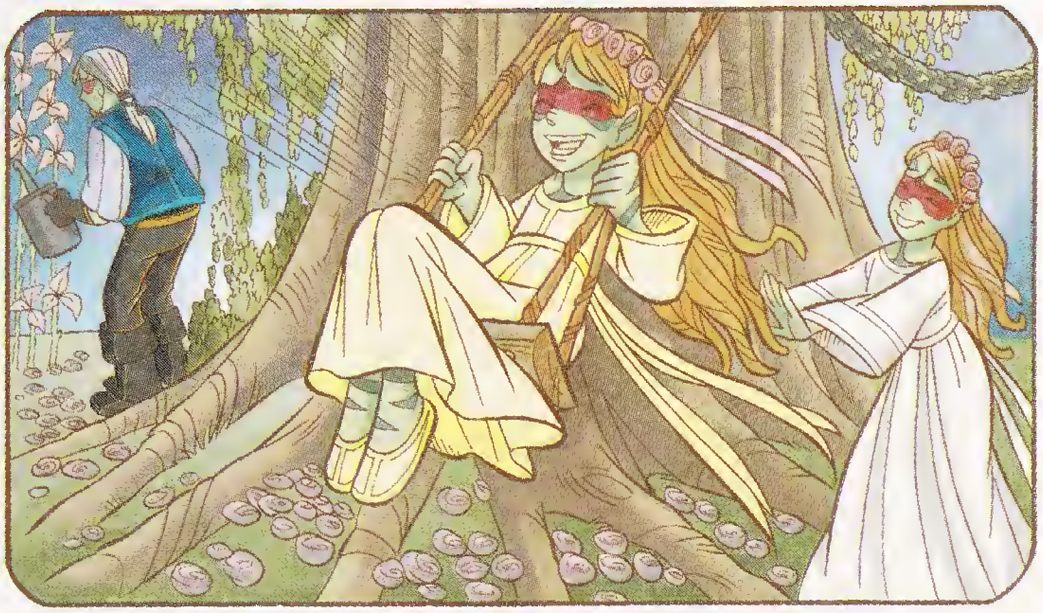

MEANWHILE, WILL LISTENS TO A TALE . . .
I AM THE CARETAKER OF THESE MARVELOUS CREATURES AND THIS EXTRAORDINARY GARDEN . . .

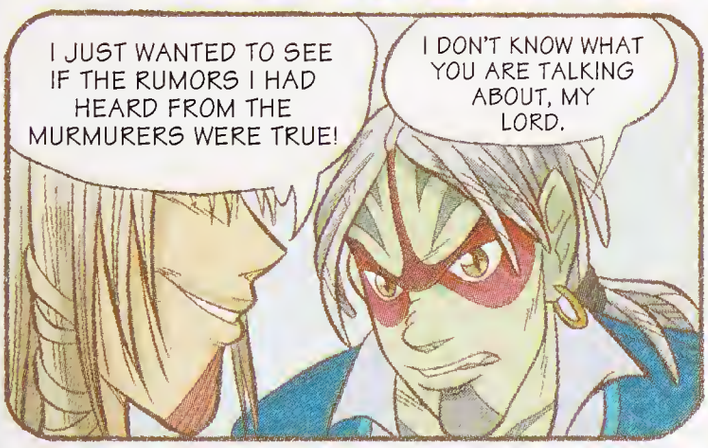
. . . MADE FOR THE SO-CALLED PLEASURE OF PRINCE PHOBOS!

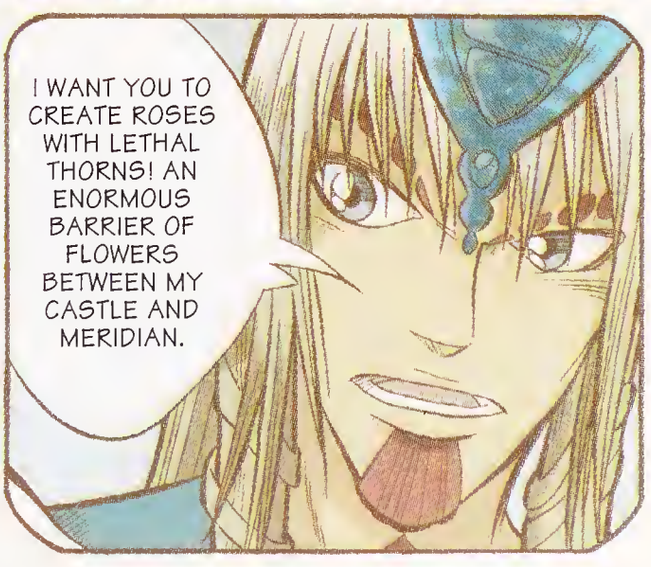

AND ARE THE BLACK ROSES PART OF YOUR GARDEN AS WELL?
YES . . . BUT I'M NOT PROUD OF THEM!

THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL YET CRUEL FLOWERS . . . PITILESS FLOWERS THAT DECEIVE AND BETRAY . . .

"I HAD NO CHOICE . . ."

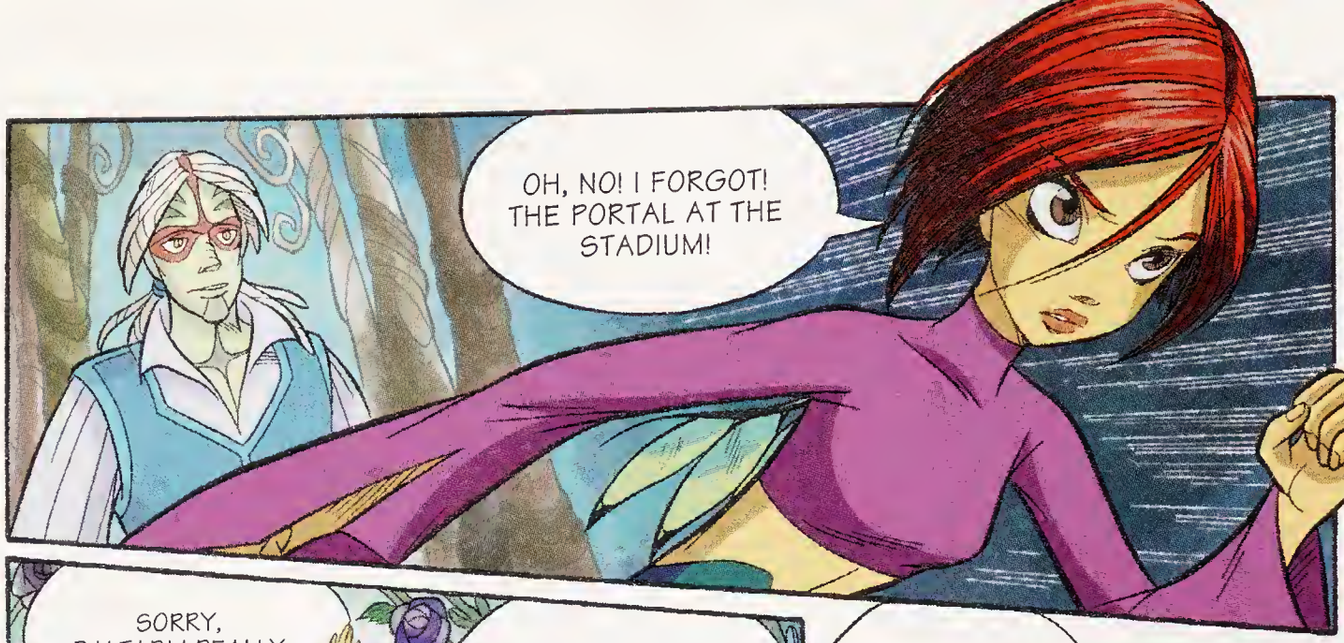




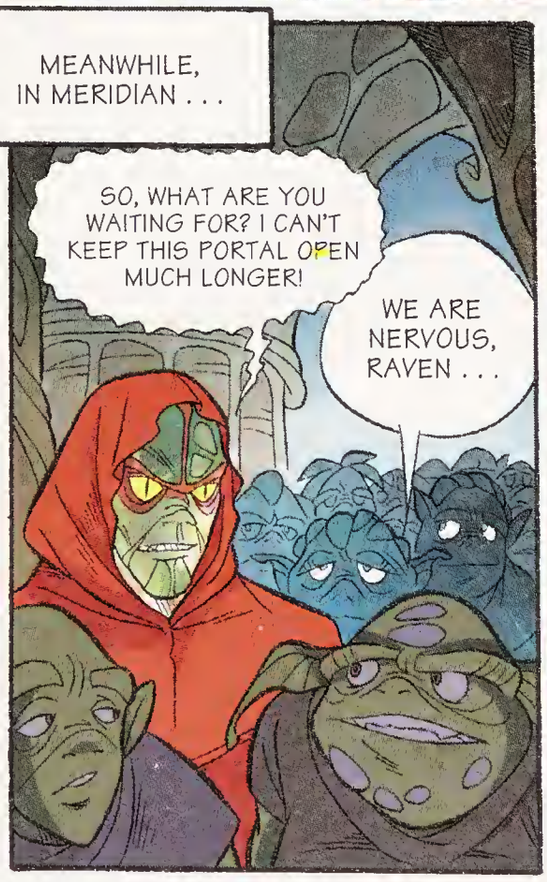


. . . WELL?
. . . NO, MASTER! I CAN'T DO THAT!
I'M JUST A SIMPLE GARDENER! TO PROTECT YOUR CASTLE YOU NEED STRONG WALLS— NOT FLOWERS!
MAYBE A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT WILL MAKE YOU RECONSIDER . . .
YOUR WIFE AND YOUR DAUGHTER WILL MAKE BEAUTIFUL ROSES!
YOUR HIGHNESS, I BEG YOU . . .
OBSERVE, DALTAR . . .
. . . THIS IS WHAT I WANT!
THAT EVIL MAN HAD DESTROYED MY FAMILY. SO I CREATED ALL THOSE BLACK ROSES AND RAISED AN UNBREAK-ABLE BARRIER!

ANYONE WHO TOUCHES THE POISONOUS THORNS TURNS INTO ONE OF THE ROSES . . .
THESE FLOWERS . . . ARE ACTUALLY THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN! THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF DESPERATE SOULS WHO HAVE TRIED TO GET INSIDE THE CASTLE TO ASK PHOBOS FOR MERCY . . .
SO THESE ROSES . . . ARE ALIVE?
YES . . . AND IT IS MY JOB TO TAKE CARE OF THEM! SOMEWHERE INSIDE THESE THICK BUSHES IS MY FAMILY!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE! SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE PHOBOS TRANSFORMED THEM . . . AND SO MANY NEW ROSES HAVE BLOOMED.
COME ON, DALTAR . . .
BUT THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE SOON. I HEARD A RUMOR THAT SOMEONE IS HELPING PEOPLE TO ESCAPE FROM MERIDIAN.



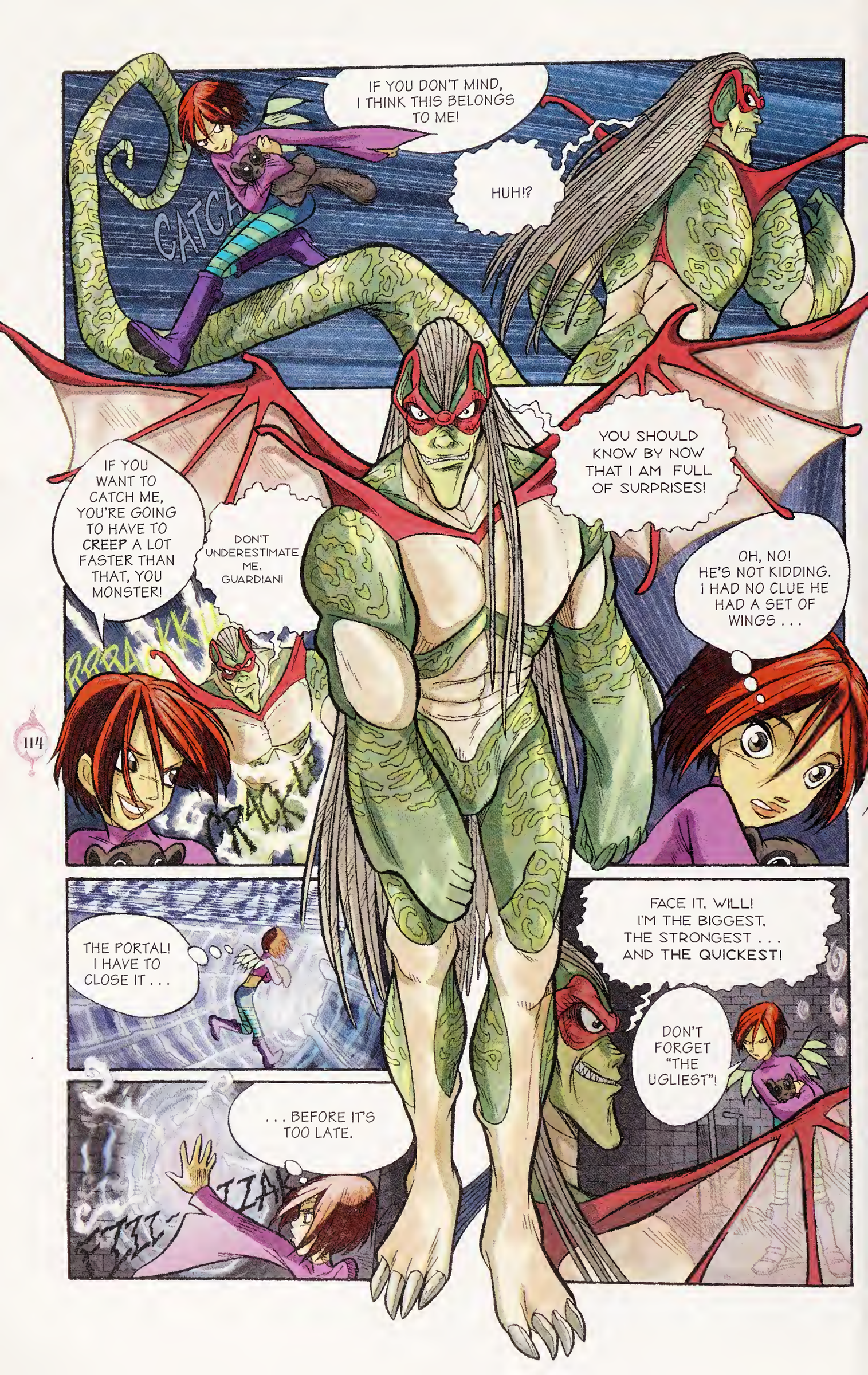
MEANWHILE, IN MERIDIAN . . .

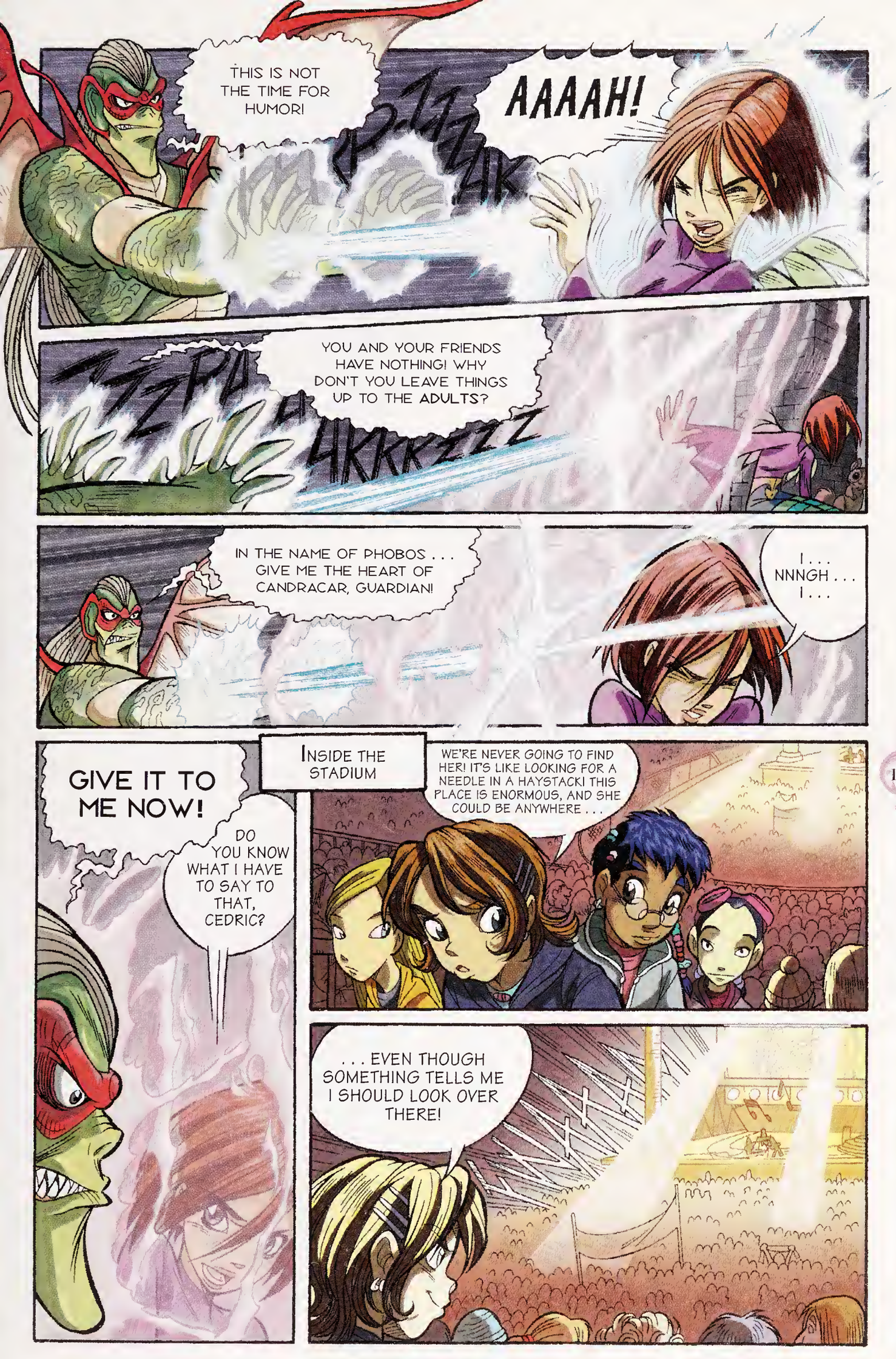


HE'S A LEADER IN SOME REGIONS OF MERIDIAN!
HE'S ALSO A THOUGHTLESS PERSON WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE IS DOING. THE WORLD BEYOND THAT PORTAL IS NOT READY TO WELCOME THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN!
THE VEIL WILL COLLAPSE BENEATH THE PRESSURE OF SUCH A LARGE CROWD . . .
. . . AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THE CONSEQUENCES FOR BOTH WORLDS WILL BE CATASTROPHIC!
LIES! NONSENSE! YOU ARE AFRAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW ME INSTEAD OF YOU!
HMMM! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
YOU ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED!
UH-OH! THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T REVEAL MYSELF QUITE YET . . .
COME ON, PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN! FOLLOW ME!
STAY AWAY FROM BE, YOU BIG BEAST!
RAAAARRGH!
THAT VOICE . . . THIS POWER . . . I . . . I KNOW YOU!

IT'S LORD CEDRIC!
IT'S A TRAP!
WHAT!
HOW VERY CLEVER OF YOU, VATHEK! WE WERE A GOOD TEAM ONCE . . .
GET OUT OF HERE! GO HOME!
QUICK! QUICK!
AHHHHH! EEEEK!
. . . BUT ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END!
AAARGH!
VATHEK!
GOOD-BYE, OLD FRIEND!
GASP!
HUH?
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION. DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?
WILL! WH—WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO TALK! WE HAVE TO GET THESE PEOPLE AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT!
HOW VERY TOUCHING . . .
. . . BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST, MY YOUNG GUARDIAN!
KRAKOOM
GASP!
UNNNGH!
PRINCE PHOBOS WILL BE PROUD OF ME! NOT ONLY WILL I DEFEAT THE REBEL LEADERS, I WILL GAIN POSSESSION OF THE HEART OF CANDRACAR! NOT BAD FOR A DAY'S WORK.
YEOOOW!
YOU!
GLIP!
GET YOURSELF TO SAFETY! I'LL DISTRACT HIM AND GET HIM TO FOLLOW ME . . .
NO, WILL! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!


IF YOU DON'T MIND, I THINK THIS BELONGS TO ME!
CATCH
HUH!?
IF YOU WANT TO CATCH ME, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CREEP A LOT FASTER THAN THAT, YOU MONSTER!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, GUARDIAN!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW THAT I AM FULL OF SURPRISES!
OH, NO! HE'S NOT KIDDING. I HAD NO CLUE HE HAD A SET OF WINGS . . .
RRRACKK
CRACK
THE PORTAL! I HAVE TO CLOSE IT . . .
FACE IT, WILL! I'M THE BIGGEST, THE STRONGEST . . . AND THE QUICKEST!
DON'T FORGET "THE UGLIEST"!
. . . BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
ZZZZ
ZZAK


THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR HUMOR!
AAAAH!
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE NOTHING! WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THINGS UP TO THE ADULTS?
IN THE NAME OF PHOBOS . . . GIVE ME THE HEART OF CANDRACAR, GUARDIAN!
I . . . NNNGH . . . I . . .
GIVE IT TO ME NOW!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TO THAT, CEDRIC?
INSIDE THE STADIUM
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND HER! IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK! THIS PLACE IS ENORMOUS, AND SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE . . .
. . . EVEN THOUGH SOMETHING TELLS ME I SHOULD LOOK OVER THERE!

IT'S WILL! AND CEDRIC!
B—BUT . . . LOOK AT THE CROWD!
!
YEEEAH!
FANTASTIC!
WOWWWWW!
WHEREAS, ON THE CONTRARY, EVERYTHING IS TERRIBLY REAL! COME ON! LET'S GO AND HELP OUR FRIEND!
THEY'RE CLAPPING! THEY THINK THAT THIS IS SOME KIND OF SPECIAL-EFFECTS SHOW!
I HOPE THOSE LITTLE WINGS OF YOURS CAN HOLD YOU, WILL . . . BECAUSE IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN FROM HERE INTO THAT CROWD!
GASP!
KEEP PLAYING! KEEP PLAYING!

STUPID HUMANS! THEY NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS AROUND THEM!
OH, YOU'RE WRONG, CEDRIC. I UNDERSTAND ONE THING PERFECTLY . . .
. . . AND I KNOW THAT YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE NOW!
!
LEAVE SOME FUN FOR US, TOO, WILL!
ALL TOGETHER . . .
. . . NOW!
117

YES! DID WE COMPLETELY DESTROY HIM?
I DON'T THINK SO, HAY LIN! LOOK OVER THERE!
HE'S GETTING AWAY! LET'S FOLLOW HIM!
NO, TARANEE . . .
IT'S TOO RISKY TO FIGHT HERE! AND UNFORTUNATELY, I AM SURE WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO FIGHT HIM AGAIN ALL TOO SOON . . .

" . . . THIS FIGHT SEEMS DESTINED NEVER TO END."
WELL, NOW, YOUNG LADIES, DON'T BE OFFENDED—BUT YOU HAVE SOME MEAN EXPRESSIONS ON YOUR FACES!
DID KARMILLA WEAR YOU OUT?
YOU COULD SAY THAT! WE'RE BEAT!
I'LL GET THE CAR AND COME PICK YOU UP. DO YOU NEED A RIDE HOME, WILL?
NO, THANKS, MR. LAIR! I HAVE MY BIKE!

ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU DON'T WANT A RIDE? WE COULD PUT YOUR BIKE IN THE TRUNK.
NO, THANKS, IRMA . . . REALLY, I'M FINE!
YOU HEARD SOME PRETTY AWFUL STORIES TODAY, WILL! THE BLACK ROSES . . . DALTAR AND HIS FAMILY . . .
. . . AND THEN YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH THE REBEL FORCES AND CEDRIC! BAD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN MERIDIAN.
THINGS ARE CHANGING THERE . . . AND I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT OUR ROLE IS GOING TO BE.
BUT, WILL, YOU KNOW WHAT OUR ROLE IS . . . WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL!
WHICH IS WHY IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REMAIN NEAR THE PORTALS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
WE'RE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN DEFEND AN INVISIBLE BARRIER WITHOUT DISRUPTING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE!
I'M WITH YOU! IF THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN WANT TO INVADE OUR WORLD, IT IS NOT OUT OF ANGER OR EVIL . . .
. . . BUT OUT OF DESPERATION! THOSE PEOPLE WANT TO ESCAPE FROM FEAR AND HUNGER!
AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHY WE WILL HELP THEM. I'M WITH YOU, TOO, WILL.

HEY! I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ODD GIRL OUT! I'M IN, TOO!
SO, GET OVER HERE.
NOBODY WILL EVER DIVIDE US!
NOBODY . . .
CLICK
HELLO.
HELLO.
AHEM . . . I'M A LITTLE LATE!
I NOTICED. YOU HAD A NICE, LONG WALK, HUH?

THIS LITTLE GUY DROVE ME CRAZY TODAY! IT RAN AWAY, AND I HAD TO RUN AFTER IT ALL AFTERNOON! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HOW FAST IT RAN.
I CAN IMAGINE. DINNER WILL BE READY IN TEN MINUTES.
DON'T . . . DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT MY DAY?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, WE HAD A FIGHT EARLIER. DID WE MAKE UP AND DID I FORGET ABOUT IT?
WHERE WERE YOU ALL AFTERNOON— BESIDES CHASING YOUR DORMOUSE?
I . . . I . . .
. . . I'M GOING TO MY ROOM! AND DON'T BOTHER CALLING ME FOR DINNER . . . I'M NOT HUNGRY!
WILL!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US, WILL? WE USED TO BE FRIENDS! BUT SINCE WE MOVED TO HEATHERFIELD, EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED . . .
I WONDER IF LEAVING HERE MIGHT CHANGE THINGS— MIGHT MAKE THEM BETTER?

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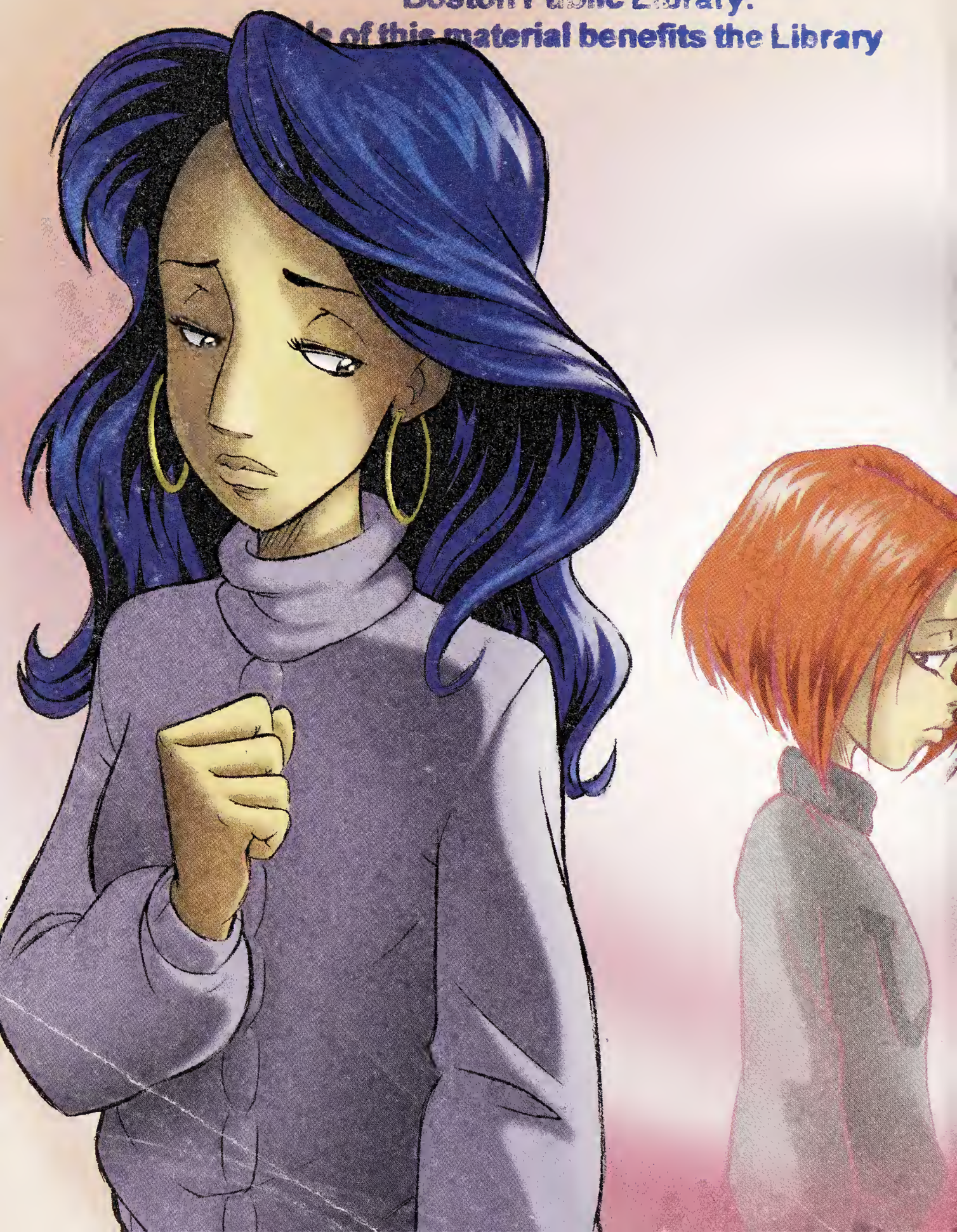

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